

MOUTH OF THE RIVER

OYSTER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL DURHAM NC 27824 ISSUE THREE FEBRUARY 12, 2013



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Cam Messer
News Guest Writer

On March 12th, hundreds of community members will exercise their civic duties and vote on the future of the Oyster River School District.

The district budget is usually one of the main topics of discussion in the Oyster River community, as it will have the largest effect on its members. The budget for the Fiscal Year of 2014 holds a 4% increase in tax rates.

There is also an increase of 1.6% in spending in the proposed budget. This percentage adds up to \$269,834 increase bringing the budget to \$38,815,855. But the majority of these increases were out of the hands of those who formed the budget. Shifting federal and state funding can account for over \$850,000 in the increased budget. These new

costs were a huge surprise to the school board and superintendent and occurred after most of the work on containing the budget growth was finished. Huge efforts were made to bring the budget back to amount where it stood last year. \$92,000 have

been saved over this past summer in utility cuts. "If it was not for that we would have been very very close to reaching a flat budget" acknowledges Superintendent Dr. James Morse.

Through new retirement incentives put forth by Morse, \$538,954 in personnel costs will be saved in the 2014 Fiscal Year budget. Unfortunately, the combined total from federal and state funding cuts, will make all of the savings invisible in the bottom line total.

Fall marks the start of the district budget for the following fiscal year. The heads of each school and the other affili-

ated departments identify where and what their needs are for the future. These requests are then brought to the Superintendent of the district and the Business Manager where all of the drafts are combined and polished. This total combined number is then presented to the school board as the proposed budget. The numbers are then shown to the public, and the public are able to amend or change any of the articles within the budget. This session is referred to as the deliberative which is held in early February. The board then votes on the articles from the deliberative session, which become operational the following year.

The School Board created a committee to help analyze and interpret the cluster of numbers in the budget. School Board member Al Howland functions as a liaison for the board and the Advisory Budget Committee (ABC). The committee has put together elaborate and focused reports that has allowed the school board to make the best decisions regarding the budget.

Oyster River personnel salaries and benefits are the big drivers in the budget and make up nearly 80% of the funds in the district budget. Congruently, this is the first place that people look to shave off some spending. Morse initiative on the retirement incentive benefited the district by reducing costs through personnel in areas where it could be afforded. Board Member Thomas Newkirk is very happy with the retirement initiative. "We

\$38, 815,855

made major savings in personnel without pink slipping anyone," he says. A total of fourteen staff members district wide have chosen to take the incentive. Out of this fourteen, only three positions are being refilled, resulting in a personal decrease of eleven people. At the elementary schools, five positions, at the middle school four positions and the high school two positions will not be replaced. Positions that are not being refilled will be merged with existing job titles and will still fall under the school board's policy concerning class size.

Oyster River is considered as a "destination school"; meaning educators come to make a career at one of the four schools within the district. This quickly results in a senior teaching staff. The cost of a senior staff is dramatically greater compared to the cost of a younger staff. But there is a strong argument that by having veteran teachers results in a superior education.

"We have tremendous opportunities with technology and extended learning opportunities, there are a lot of exciting things that can be done." - Mike McClurken

However, while it logically it makes sense, does Oyster River have the numbers and results to prove it? In fact it does; Oyster River has scored hallmark data over the past few years. 90% of second graders are proficient in reading. Oyster River is extremely competent in its graduation rate and SAT scores. These positive numbers are consistent throughout the school district, not isolated in one place. This suggests that as a whole, Oyster River teachers are doing a good job.

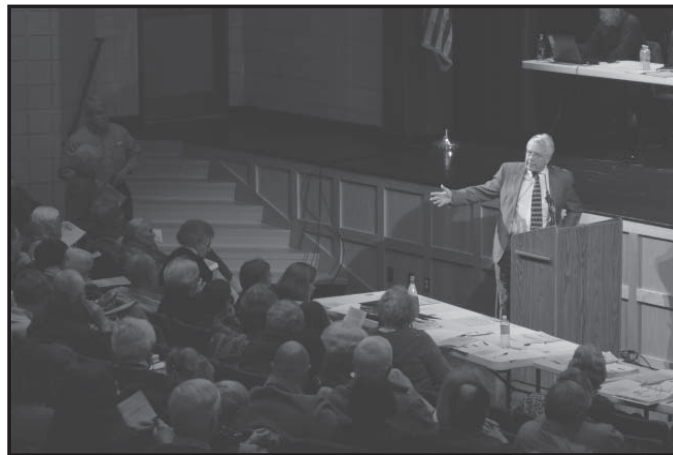
How one looks at these numbers will decide what they will take away from them. All public school systems deal with the same issue: being fiscally responsible to the taxpayers while maintaining or improving the quality of education. This requires a balance between school personnel and community members. Mike McClurken, a Durham resident, has set up numerous meetings with the superintendent along with board members to discuss his views. McClurken has degrees from Drexel University as well as a Master's and Ph.D from MIT.

McClurken acknowledges the need for growth within the school district but questions the places where money is being put. While he does not question the quality of the teachers at Oyster River, he does ask if there are cheaper alternatives. "We have tremendous opportunities with technology and extended learning opportunities, there are a lot of exciting things that can be done", McClurken comments.

High School Principal Todd Allen shares the hope of many: that the hundreds of hours that were spent to get the bud-

get where it stands today will not go unnoticed. He also urges community members not to base their opinions solely at the bottom line numbers. The savings in personnel costs will be continuous and will become more visible in the years to come. As the financial incentive will not be a playing factor in the future, the savings will jump basically double, resulting over a million dollars each year.

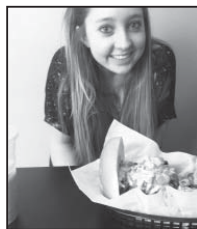
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Moharimet Principal Dennis Harrington speaking at the deliberative session on February 5th.

"TIME IS THE SCHOOL IN WHICH WE LEARN"

POETRY OUT LOUD 2013



Emma Salvati
Guest News Writer

Poetry Out Loud is a national competition that takes place once a year in schools across the country. Students theatrically read poems in their classroom in the open competition. The winner then advances to a school-wide competition, then regional, and then to the national competition.

Oyster River High School's POL competition took place on Thursday, January 17 in the Multi-Purpose room. There were 11 contestants who each read two poems, which had to be selected from the POL online anthology. The poems two have to meet a specific criterion; one has to be 25 lines or fewer, and one has to be from before the 20th century.

The contestants, one from at least each grade, recited both their poems from memory in front of about 30 people, not including the judges. It was captivating seeing these students recite their poems with such ease and enthusiasm.

Junior Catherine Geiger is the Oyster River Poet Laureate for 2012-2013, and as she MC'd the event she introduced each contestant and announced the winners. At the beginning of the competition she recited her own poem to get the judges ready for the poems to come.

Some of the judges may sound familiar, such as Oyster River Middle School English teacher Linda Rief and Oyster River High School teacher John Monahan, who did prompting and accuracy. Other judges included librarian Lisa Kleinemann and UNH professor Tom Newkirk.

"Poetry Out Loud makes poetry more present in our lives."
-Kara Sullivan

The 11 contestants who won their classroom competition took the stage and recited the poems, having such concentration that mostly all of them flowed through their poems without being distracted by background noises. The Poetry Out Loud competition, created by the National Endowment for the Arts, helps high school students "master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage." It was evident that each contestant had a respect for poetry, and it's possible the audience members also had a new found appreciation.

"I believe it helps students gain confidence," says ORHS english teacher Kara Sullivan. "[Poetry Out Loud] makes poetry more present in our lives, and it helps students with their presentation skills." Sullivan has been involved with POL for five years now, and as an English teacher, hosts it in her freshmen classes.

In the end, freshmen Gabriella Trombley came in third, junior Erin Robert in second and junior Daniel Belshaw in first after his recitation of "Lazy" by William Blake and "Calmly We Walk through This April's Day" by Delmore Schwartz.

Belshaw was last year's Oyster River Poet Laureate, and MC'd the event. This year he competed and won first place. He will now be competing in the Regional Event. "I'm nervous, but more excited," says Belshaw. "I don't know what to expect from the other contestants," referring to the 11 contestants that won their school competitions in New Hampshire. "Some might be more competitive than I am, and I'm sure they're all very capable, but I'm practicing everyday!"

The Regional Competition takes place on March 15th, at the University of New Hampshire's Hennessy Theater at 7:00.



Daniel Belshaw reciting his poem in front of the judges.



All of the contestants lined up on the stage.

SCHOOL BUDGET (CONT. FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

situation begs for people to understand that there is a parallel goal: to retain the quality of education while remaining responsible to taxpayers. It is McClurken's hope that the Oyster River School District will be more thoughtful in where and in what they are spending.

McClurken feels that since the budget season starts nearly twelve months prior to the affected fiscal year, it is sometimes difficult to envision the big picture. He questions the process and whether or not we should be making decisions involved millions of dollars through it. But it is the job of the elected positions that are instituted to have this vision and to lead the community. As community members, trust is instilled when electing a superintendent as well as a school board. "Morse, he is fabulous to work with, he has experience, he is articulate, he is decisive and he reaches out to the community", Newkirk comments.

Looking into the future, Superintendent Morse is pushing for an increase in communication between the towns while maintaining sight of the big picture. "The most important piece is not the numbers per se; it is what we are trying to achieve for our students" Morse comments. Oyster River's test scores are in the top 10% of the schools in New Hampshire, but its cost per student is also in the top 10%. Morse's goal is to get out of the cost bracket while remaining in the score bracket.



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

COMMUNITY EMBRACES FB PAGE "OYSTER RIVER COMPLIMENTS"



Adelia Couser
Editor in Chief

551 like this.
406 talking about this.
Joined Facebook on December 20, 2012 at 3:48pm.
"We had heard about it from Queens [College] and we wanted to start it at ORHS. We had been searching for something to try and make people happier and better [the] community at ORHS for a while before that. And then this suddenly just hit us, and we decided to make it," says an administrator of Oyster River Compliments.

For those of you who haven't heard of Compliments, it is a Facebook page designed to support the ORHS community. Students write nice things (the "compliments") about their peers or teachers and message them to the page, where the administrators publish the compliments anonymously. Other students often help by tagging the receiver of the compliment or commenting on/"liking" the post. The exchange usually ends with the receiver thanking the anonymous compliment-giver and continuing with their newly brightened day.

"When I first got a Compliment I had been having a really bad week, and when I saw it, it made me smile," says junior Isabelle Beagan, receiver of a Compliment. "It just brightened my day...it reminds you all the great friends and wonderful people who are all around."

Compliments is run by two main administrators, both of whom are students at ORHS. "At first, when many messages were coming in, we were talking nonstop about who was posting which messages," says one of the admins. "Now that things have died down, basically one person really checks it and works with it. [However] this page would be nothing without people sending in messages, other people tagging posts, and all the people who view this page."

A potentially surprising fact about Compliments is that the administrators have made the decision to remain anonymous. "We feel like if we disclose who we are, it would take away from the page," says an administrator. "It could make people feel awkward about sending in messages if they know who is reading it, or make people attempt to figure out who has said what about whom. We have planned to eventually disclose who we are, even if a lot of people have guessed already. But for right now we wish to remain anonymous."



Sam Lewis and Alexandria Trombley feel the love from OR Compliments.

"We hope this page sends the message that a few kind words or even a smile in a hallway can make a positive difference in someone's life."
-OR Compliments administrator

"I like the fact that you don't know who it is," says Beagan. "In my eyes, adding a name to the compliment takes away from the point, which is to brighten someone's day while asking for nothing in return."

The community has welcomed OR Compliments with open arms. Dozens of students and ORHS alumni have had both real-life conversations and Facebook statuses about the page, saying things like, "You're my hero," "I am proud to be a part of this school," and "Thank you for giving me hope for generations to come." The Compliments administrators stated that they would like to thank everyone for their support, adding that they hope the page's viewers have gained something from Compliments and will continue to benefit from the messages it seeks to send.

"Our end goal is for ORHS not to need this page," says an admin. "We want all that happens on the page - the words of kindness, the caring attitude, the sense of community - to happen on a daily basis without the page. We feel that this page has great power and can be used in a beneficial way to our community. We wish to say something about everyone - even if, sadly, that is an unrealistic goal - so that no one ever feels alone again."

Compliments has recently been branching out; they're beginning to broadcast the page submissions on TV screens around the school to brighten students' days, as well as publish "PSAs" on the page. "When we started this our message was simply to say a few nice things about people," comments an admin. "However, through the lifespan of this page, many things have come to our attention and we have expanded that goal." They say they've become aware of issues in the school such as eating disorders and depression, and plan on using the page to voice their opinions and offer solutions to combat these problems.

"[Compliments] gets viewed by many people around the community and inside the school; the most-viewed post was viewed 1,800 times," says an admin, "so we definitely think that using this page to make [awareness] posts can make a difference. We hope this page sends the message that a few kind words or even a smile in a hallway can make a positive difference in someone's life."

MOR STAFF'S THOUGHTS ON OYSTER RIVER COMPLIMENTS:

"It's a great way to spread kindness throughout our school." -Corey

"It creates a positive vibe for everyone at the school." -Zach

"It's a great idea, but I think it's starting to be used for purposes other than its original goal." -Aaron

"It's a good idea...it builds up people's self-esteem and emanates a positive attitude." -Chase

"It's a good way to spread good." -Ian

"It's very uplifting and can turn someone's day around." -Eliza



GOT CHANGE?



"You do things the way you've done them until there's a reason to change," states Principal Todd Allen.

Eliza Brown
Guest News Writer

Obviously students have noticed the new rules for dances, "grinding" is no longer tolerated. However, Allen explains that grinding was never allowed but was always a gray area on how to handle the matter. Although students hope it can make a comeback Allen says, "Odds are very, very slim under my watch."

One change bothering many students is the newly enforced signing in and out at the main office rule. Although many believe the administration is being unfair about the situation Allen finds it justified, "Compared to other schools we are pretty 'lax about security here.'" According to Allen it's all about security, "the more doors students come and go through the more random people can enter through as well." Along with security

"The best way to make it happen is to voice opinion; I'm not resistant to change."
-Principal Allen

signing in and out also helps account for students when there are fire drills and other such situations. How many times have you ran to catch the door before 7:35 am and it locks shut the second you reached it? Now you're not two minutes late but 10. Allen thinks a five minute window with the doors unlocked after 7:35 for later students would be completely fair but again it all comes back to security, "we are tightening it up for safety reasons; we need to know who's in the school."

When asked the point of school many teachers would respond that it's to prepare you for the next step, or college. Allen states, "The goal should be to set them up for whatever they (the students) want to do." Many students wholeheartedly agree and see many flaws in our education system. Allen believes students are just "going through the motions" and understands that not everyone needs the same classes. Allen feels very adamant about this and explained how they're trying to open up senior year to allow students the chance to engage in more things they're interested in. "It would be nice to have every kid figure out something they're excited about and then embed it into school," says Allen.

Above all complaints and protests one issue has been brought up time after time: the wellness plan. However, when asked what the wellness plan is not one student could give a definitive answer. Allen explains the new wellness plan is an adopted school district policy which pushes nutritional food and what this means for our school is that certain unhealthy foods cannot be sold. The real issue students are having isn't with the wellness plan per se, but the lack of food options sold. With all the student complaints this year Allen expresses the challenges the cafeteria has to handle, "The cafeteria has to deal with nutritional guidelines and be profitable...eliminating things that don't make money, in the process of figuring out more food options." Besides the food option complaints many students are having a hard time dealing with the fact that we can no longer have bake sales — or so they believe. In schools there are certain foods that can not to be sold in fundraisers, such as a bake sale. This is because anything sold outside of the cafeteria is not allowed to 'compete' with the school cafeteria food which means 'competitive foods' are not to be sold. With that said, Allen states, "this does not limit bake sales, they just have to be operated differently." With all the new changes in the cafeteria students don't see the positive possibilities that this new wellness plan entails. This could very well open up the food options and bring a variety of new, healthier foods to Oyster River.



Principal Allen ready to address student concerns.

When students were asked what other changes they'd like to see various smaller issues were also brought up. Several students mentioned the idea of a later start time and although Allen thinks it's a great idea the district has looked into it many times and agrees the impact on sports and the younger kids is too great. The next change students hope for is more freedom with the core; allowing students to play hacky sack or having a couch for instance. Although many think Allen is just being unfair he explains there's nothing he can do about it. Certain things, like couches, aren't allowed because of the fire code. As for games such as hacky sack Allen sees no problem as long as it isn't played inside, "We want to promote an educational atmosphere, so just take it outside and that's fine."

Although it seems students have several changes they would like to see made not many have been brought to Allen's attention. After meeting with Allen it seems he'll be looking into some, "there are a lot of good issues here for further consideration." One of these being the possibility of bigger desks for taller students or time set aside senior year to work on digital portfolios. Allen assures that

"You do things the way you've done them until there's a reason to change."
-Principal Allen

"the best way to make it happen is to voice opinion; I'm not resistant to change."



More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day.

THE ONE ACT FESTIVAL: A DAY OF FUN



Adelia Couser
Editor in Chief

longer than 40 minutes. High schools around New Hampshire choose, cast, and rehearse one act plays until they are ready compete against other schools.

"There are three levels of competition," says Meredith Freeman-Caple, head of the ORHS drama department. "First there are regional competitions, which take place in three different schools around New Hampshire. Then the top three schools from each of those regionals move on to the state competition, and then one to two schools move on from states to the New England competition."

This year, the New England competition will be held in Rhode Island, the state competition will be held at Kingswood Regional High School in Wolfesboro, and one of the regional competitions will be held at our very own high school on March 16!

"I'm very excited to be hosting a regional competition," says Freeman-Caple. "[ORHS] hosted five years ago, and while it was a ton of work, the kids had so much fun and I got a lot of positive feedback from the other schools - they said the day ran very smoothly. Right now I have a group of [theater] kids who are very helpful, enthusiastic, and independent; that will help me a lot in running Festival."

Even though the regional Festival is just a one-day event, it requires a great deal of preparation for the host school. Freeman-Caple explains that she will need to compile a great deal of paperwork from the participating schools, set up classrooms for the visiting students to stay in, and coordinate adult volunteers to help with tasks that range from selling tickets all day to supervising students to helping people move sets. "There are a lot of hoops that we need to jump through, but I don't see any major obstacles at this point," she states.

Sophomore Siobhán Slavin shares Freeman-Caple's sentiments. "I'm very excited about us hosting this year," says

"I'm very excited about us hosting this year...The theater program at Oyster River is very strong, so I'm sure we'll be able to run the festival smoothly."
-Siobhan Slavin

so I'm sure we'll be able to run the festival smoothly."

"It is a long day," confesses Freeman-Caple, "but it is full of performances and then [student-led] forums - during those forums the judges are meeting with the directors and giving them feedback on their performances." This year Freeman-Caple hopes to set up acting workshops throughout the day, since she believes there's a lot of downtime when students are just waiting in classrooms.

"I think it will be a great experience," says Anderson. "I'm sure that hosting will have its own issues, but we're actors and improvisation is kind of what we do. [Festival] is just so much fun, and we're basically running the show this year - I like that."

"The One Act Festival is something I look forward to every year because it brings actors from many schools together," says senior Kiersten Anderson, a three-year Festival participant. "I remember last year our hosts basically became a part of our family and we became really good friends."

The annual One Act Festival, organized by the New Hampshire Education Theater Guild (NHETG), takes place from March through April in New England. Festival is basically a giant competition of one act plays, which are theatrical performances which last no



Annie Lelio, a cast member of last year's One Act, prepares for a performance at Manchester West High School. (Photo: Blake Caple)



Jill Eddy and Peter Krumpke, members of the 2010 One Act cast, party hard at Portsmouth High School.

A Typical Day at Festival:

Schools begin arriving at the host school at 7am. When each school arrives, they are greeted by two students who will be their guides for the day. Throughout the day, students will watch other schools' plays in 90-minute blocks, eat lunch and dinner together, and hang out with other schools during downtime. There are also student-led discussions held throughout the day, called "forums," where the students discuss the shows that they just saw and ask the people who were in them about their acting and technical choices: costumes, lighting, set design, etc. The day ends with a big dance and an awards ceremony, where the winning schools are announced.

If you would like to help with the all-day One Act Festival at ORHS on Saturday, March 16, please talk to Mrs. Freeman-Caple as soon as possible!





Adrian Schidlovsky
Guest News Writer

SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION

"It's a good day in the fight for cleaner air. It's a good day in the fight for healthier communities. And it's a good day in the fight to protect our environment for the generations of Americans still to come," said President Obama on December 21, 2011. Although the Oyster River School District does not impact the environment as much as the federal government can, every little bit counts.

The Oyster River School District has developed a committee to work on specific concerns and projects surrounding energy usage and conservation efforts. The Green Oyster is committed to integrating the community into sustainable practices. This is demonstrated by their resolve to educate community members and advocate for sustainable living. "We meet monthly as subcommittees and throughout the year as a full committee in order to work through out goals. We always welcome individuals from the school or community to join us for our meetings or as a member," says Cristina Dolcino, a Green Oyster Member.

Sustainability is "reaching the needs of the present, without compromising the resources for the future" says Jonathan Bromley, Environmental Science teacher and Green Oyster member. According to the most recent Green Oyster education packet, there are five principles of sustainability: Renewability, adaptability, interdependence, institutional commitment, and substitution. Renewability refers to a community that uses renewable resources, such as water, topsoil, and energy sources no faster than they can replace themselves. The rate of consumption of renewable resources cannot exceed the rate of regeneration. Adaptability requires a community that can absorb shocks and adapt to take advantage of new opportunities. This requires a diversified economy, educated citizens, and a spirit of solidarity. Interdependence requires a community that recognizes that they are part of a larger system and that the system cannot be sustainable until the whole system is sustainable. Institutional Commitment requires a community that adopts laws and political processes that mandate sustainability. Its economic system supports sustainable production and consumption, and its educational systems teach people to value and practice sustainable behavior. Finally, substitution is the act of whenever possible, to replace finite resources with renewable sources. To be sustainable, the community has to make the transition before the finite resources run out.

There are four subcommittees of the Green Oyster: The Facilities and Procurement subcommittee, the Food and Gardens Subcommittee, the Transportation Subcommittee, and the Educational Outreach Subcommittee. All of these committees make up the Green Oyster. The Facilities and Procurement Subcommittee examines ORCSD's energy usage and conservation efforts to reduce fossil fuel costs and to improve efficiencies. In 2011-2012, this committee helped complete the energy audit of the Oyster River High School, Middle School, as well as the two elementary schools, resulting in a re-commissioning of the HVAC system, and lighting retrofits to save the district thousands of dollars.

The Food and Gardens Subcommittee is working to procure local produce through the support of New Hampshire's Farm to School program. Vegetable gardens were planted at each school by students, staff, and community members. This project was integrated into classroom instruction. The Oyster River Nutrition Program is now purchasing local produce and meats such as butternut squash, tur-



Eliza Lewis and Sadie Moore love eating local vegetables.

nips, apples, grass-fed beef, red potatoes, and pork are being purchased and served to students. The strong interest in putting a salad bar in place is being strongly considered. A new recycling-compost program is being introduced in the schools due to a new contract agreement with Troiano Waste Services and EcoMovement.

The Transportation Subcommittee is helping not only ORCSD, but also the whole Oyster River community as well as making more energy efficient transportation choices. Thirteen buses were converted to B20 in 2012 and 10 more B20 conversions are slated to take place by the end of 2013. "B20 Buses run on a mix of 80% diesel and 20% alternative fuel made from renewable resources such as vegetable oil and fat" explains Bromley. "This mix is commonly known as biodiesel." The fuel burns more cleanly than traditional diesel and is non-toxic. It can be

"We meet monthly as subcommittees and throughout the year as a full committee in order to work throughout goals."

-Cristina Dolcino

combined with traditional diesel to increase performance, especially at cold temperatures. Bus Drivers were also educated on the "No Idling" practices, while efforts are being planned to increase bus ridership and

decrease the use private cars to and from school.

The Educational Outreach subcommittee maintains the website that displays updated ORCSD sustainable committee work, sustainable practices, as well as opportunities for education. The subcommittee promotes events that support and educate ORCSD and the OR community about sustainability practices through workshops, presentations, published information, and visits to other programs. according to the Report of the District, the Advisory Budget Committee has decided on investing \$47,000 into sustainability initiatives.

Sustainability is an essential part of everyday life. It is great that sustainability practices are being taught in schools. 60 Million Americans spend their day in K-12 schools sustaining the green protocols set in place by the community. Future plans include making school lunches from 100% local food, all buses B20, instituting a salad bar in all schools, making people aware of sustainability in our schools, and overall creating a fully sustainable school district for future students.



INSIDE THE WORLD OF ADOLESCENT TWITTER USERS



Aaron Slepian
Features Editor

In the scheme of social networking Facebook still holds the throne in popularity and usage. But in my observation I've been seeing the rise of another online giant: Twitter. It is pretty simple, it's more or less a site devoted to the equivalent of Facebook statuses.

Twitter seems to give people the impression that every simple thing they do or thought they have is relevant to their "followers". On top of this it seems like people feel completely comfortable sharing some pretty personal things, as long as it's in 140 characters or less. Twitter also comes with an aspect of competition, friends compare the number of followers they have or what their follower-following ratio is.

It seems as though there is often a sense of competition on Twitter, to gain as many followers as possible, "I guess because it's good to know that people, some who you don't know, care what you have to say or think you're funny," says sophomore Katherine Howard (@classykhov). Junior Amanda Souvannaseng (@souvyv_) has raked in a total of 299 followers over the year and a half that she has had twitter, as far as I have seen Souvannaseng has the most followers in the school.

"Honestly I don't know why I have so many followers I tweet the most annoying things ever but I guess people find it entertaining?" Says Souvannaseng. Senior Jennifer Taylor (@jennythefoof) gives advice to twitter users who are looking to gain some followers, "I'd say the key is just time. It takes a while for people to find you randomly, and you just have to wait. Also follow everyone you know because they'll follow you back and try not to tweet too often or about uninteresting or too personal things, those just aren't very fun and they're uncomfortable to read."

Taylor mentions another part of twitter that can be somewhat strange; the type of posts that people tend to make. Some posts can actually be quite personal and honestly somewhat surprising to see. Senior Pranav Nanda (@felizNAVIdad) finds that 140 character limit is actually a benefit to him, in a way it restrains his tweets within reason, "I definitely do feel more comfortable with personal things on twitter because its limited to 140 characters, and less people see it or care" Nanda says, adding "With Facebook I could write really long messages and a lot more people see it."

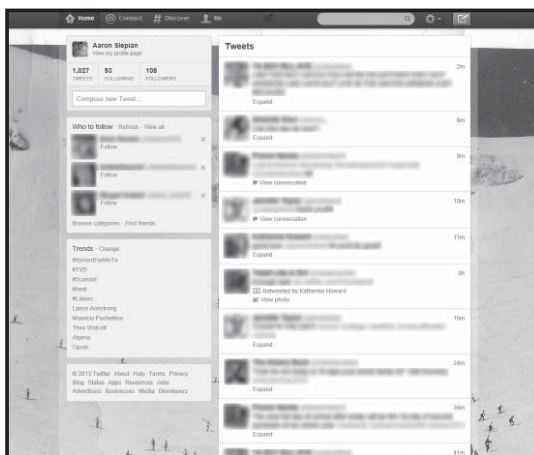
Plenty of students at Oyster River have a Twitter account but what draws these users seems to be one of three things, the need for an outlet, pressure from friends, or the ability to stalk celebrities. "I put off getting a Twitter for a really long

time but then I thought, hey why not? Lots of people have a twitter and I have a lot of opinions" Says senior Becca Hoff (@BeccaHoff1) Souvannaseng got hers for another

reason, "Quite honestly I joined to stalk Justin Bieber and the Kardashians" she says, and Taylor, Nanda and Howard all got theirs because their friends and family had.

Hoff says she prefers posting on Twitter opposed to Facebook stating, "I feel like if people don't want to know what I'm thinking they don't have to look at my twitter, but if you post on Facebook pretty much everyone sees it." Howard shares a similar testament saying, "I am much more comfortable posting personal things on twitter than Facebook or any other

site and the only reason I have to explain that is, twitter



My Twitter feed, featuring a combination of humor pages.

"I guess because it's good to know that people, some who you don't know, care what you have to say or think you're funny."

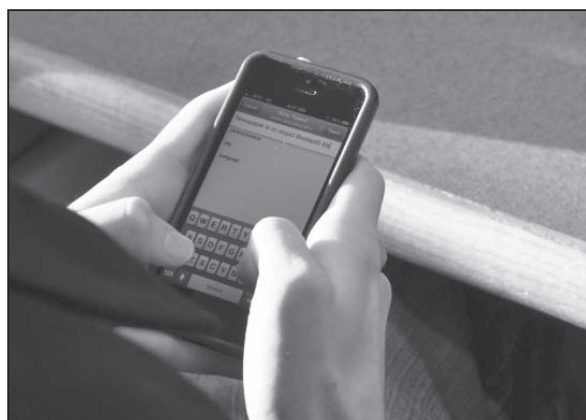
-Katherine Howard

just seems pretty casual." People seem to be attracted to Twitter as a place to express their thoughts, musings and sometimes personal feelings, without the potential judgment of their peers.

Of course a huge aspect of joining Twitter is to follow your friends and enjoy their witticisms, and everyone has their favorites. Taylor's favorite Twitter account belonging to one of her peers is senior Morgan Fay's, "she can have some pretty hilarious stories to tweet" says Taylor. Souvannaseng's favorite is senior Kristina Weatherbee with senior Ellen Sievert as a runner up.

Hoff's favorite is Oyster River graduate Zach Ahlgrim, whom she also feels is much underappreciated on Twitter, "he's so fascinating! He uses good word play and he Tweets a lot of funny things," Hoff says, "His Tweets are few and far between but they brighten my day."

Twitter has provided a venue where countless people can purge themselves of their thoughts no matter how serious, intelligent, useless or arbitrary they may be. It has made a name for itself as a simple way to share what you're thinking with people who actually care about what you have to say. It has given everyday people the ability to peek into the secret lives of celebrities and appreciate them as real people not fantastical beings. Twitter seems to continue to rise in popularity as the place for people to share and connect.



Twitter's mobile app is a popular tool for many Oyster River students





Andrew Gass
Features Editor

WE ARE FAMILY

"[Tessa] can have severe anger issues in the morning if I don't leave in time," says junior Trevor Oakes. Tessa and Trevor are among many Oyster River students who are siblings at our school.

Being siblings can be difficult and while there are drawbacks such as having to give rides, the majority of Oyster River students seem to find the experience beneficial.

Trevor doesn't think that there is much of a difference with Tessa being in the high school rather than in the middle school. "It's not that much different... I just try to look out for her." Watching out for the younger sibling and making sure they don't do anything dumb seems to be a constant tendency for siblings.

Sometimes having an older sibling in the same school can be good, other times maybe not. Going through high school knowing that if you do something stupid, your sibling will hear about it or vice versa can be a daunting thought. Most kids, although they may not say it, will cherish the opportunity to poop in public and be in the same school as a brother or sister.

"It's definitely different seeing Andy around and having so many of my friends know him is weird, but I like it", says Molly McQuade. Molly, who is a senior, has a brother, Andy, who is currently a freshman. The

"There really is no best part... she asks a lot of questions."

- Trevor Oakes

gap from senior to freshman can be a tough one, but the McQuade's seem to have it all worked out. According to Molly, her brother plays the song

"Don't Worry, Be Happy" on the rides to school because he thinks that it makes her less grumpy.

Both of the McQuades play multiple sports and Molly has enjoyed having the opportunity to see her younger brother play high school sports. Being able to watch a sibling play a high school sport while in the same school is something that not many kids can say.

"Be social, don't hide in your room" is what junior Kelly Davis told her younger sister Natalie before entering high school. The Davis sisters are very close and are not the typical sister relationship. Kelly is good friends with all of Natalie's friends, which makes things easier for both sisters knowing that they all can get along. "I don't really like have to wait for her to drive her home" says Kelly, who states that this is probably the worst part about having a sister at school.

The older siblings often give words of wisdom that can be followed throughout high school. However in the case of the Oakes, Trevor told his sister that she would fig-

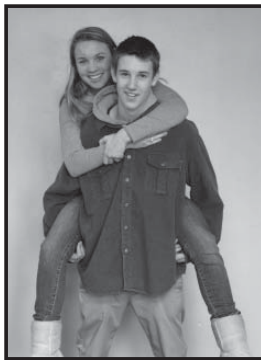
"Get to know the upperclassmen and don't think you're superior to anyone like you were in eighth grade." - Molly McQuade

ure it out all on her own. Molly gave her brother some advice that every freshman should take into consideration, "get to know the upperclassmen and don't

think you're superior to anyone like you were in eighth grade."

Junior Landon Burt's younger brother, Christian, is a freshman as well at ORHS. Despite the two-year age difference, the Burts are very close, like the Davis's, and with the younger brother being in school now, they are even closer. "The worst part is that he knows everything that's going on in the high school," says Landon, but other than that he enjoys having him around.

Having the opportunity to attend school with a sibling is something that I wish I'd had the chance to do. For the younger sibling, it can be nice to have that older person to look up to upon arrival at a new school. While it may be a hassle for the older sibling, it can be a good experience as both siblings have something to bond over and can share a common experience.



The McQuades



The Oakes



The Davises

OVERHEARDS!!!

"We're not Hogwarts — we can't have video in our newspaper."
—Mr. Kelly

"Put your pants back on."
—Stephanie Hollister

"My binders are full of poop. I can't even show them to my teachers!" —Jialin Shi

"Who cares about integrity — it's French class!" —Emma Sosa

"God is totally beating Satan."
—Blake Caple

"It's a one-eyed, one-horned, purple people-eater!" —Rebecca Taylor

"I don't like wearing pants."
— Brennan Young

"I'm more like a killer whale than anything."
—Brennan Young

"You replaced Olivia's gumdrops with starving Congolese children!" —Rachel Pease

"Yes, Mr. Mroz, I put the 'pro' in 'procrastination.'"
—Courtney Tewksbury



KIDS AND THEIR TATS



Emma Salvati
Features Writer

"[My tattoo] is of a dream catcher," says senior Gina Kliska. Underneath the image of the dream catcher it reads 'Don't let your dreams be dreams.' "The quote means to make your dreams a reality," she explains. "And the dream catcher is meant to catch the good dreams and get rid of the bad; so basically go after the dreams that will benefit your life." Kliska got her ink in October, shortly after her 18th birthday. "I'll probably get another," she says. "I'm not really sure what it will be of, but it will be smaller than my first one."



Joelle Lesniak got her tattoo with her older sister for her 16th birthday. The tattoo is a combination of a dragonfly and the 'Om' symbol. The dragonfly represents change and transition, and the simplest translation of the 'Om' symbol means "to be one." "I created a sym-



bol," says Lesniak, "we call it the dragonfly om, to represent being one with change as a reminder to take things as they come because it's too easy to get swept up in and discouraged by forces of which we have no control over." Lesniak exclaims that she loves tattoos, and that they're a beautiful way to express yourself.



Sarah Huston got her tattoo just during winter break, but has been wanting one for a while. The tattoo, which pictures three birds above a cursive text that reads "I'll fly away", was done in remembrance of her grandparents. "It hurt a lot, but I kept picturing my grandparents and then it didn't hurt so bad. Plus my friend Autumn was there to hold my hand."

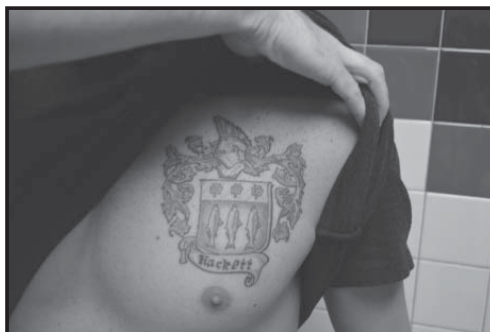


"My soul is my own, never to be governed by thy temple given" reads Cassidy Kolter's tattoo, which is placed in the middle of her upper back. It stretches from shoulder to shoulder. "The tattoo was inspired by Buddhist practices," explains Kolter. "When you have multiple lives, your soul stays the same, regardless of the form you are given." Kolter got the tattoo in November of last year, and plans on getting another soon: a scale on her wrist, to represent balance.



Senior Travis Hackett currently has three tattoos: one on his back, one on his side, and the last on his chest. "I got the one on my side for my great-grandmother. She always said I had the Hackett name to me." Hackett got a matching tattoo with his father before he went into the military.

The third is of his family crest. "I got this one because I thought it would be cool to have. All my tattoos are family oriented and not just random." Hackett says he plans on getting at least one or two more tattoos.





Nathaniel Fisk currently has two tattoos; one on his shoulder and another on his forearm. "The one on my shoulder is a drawing that my brother and I had done years back. My brother is a great artist and I have always wanted one of his drawings as a tattoo."



"The one on my forearm is part of the Lord's Prayer, a prayer that my football team and I say before every game." Fisk got this tattoo when he turned 18. "I do plan on getting more tattoos. 'I Am My Brother's Keeper' is my next one; it's a quote that my two brothers already have."

Kyle Knight has a tattoo on his wrist of the Hindu symbol AUM. "The symbol combines the syllables A, U and M which are representative of Brahma, Visnu and Shiva, who are one god acting in 3 forms as creator, preserver, and destroyer. It is said that Brahma (the creator) expanded out of Visnu's naval through a lotus flower and meditated upon 'Aum,' thus spawning the universe through his austerity. In this way it is considered the primordial sound." Knight chose to get it on his wrist as a constant reminder to remain god-conscious. He says that he will get another tattoo, but only after careful consideration. "I think a tattoo should only exist to serve a deeply meaningful purpose."



"My tattoo is of a female Indian centaur holding her arrow up under the planet of Jupiter and its 4 major moons."

Resa Meyer's tattoo is located on her left shoulder, and has a meaning that represents her heritage, astrological sign, and freedom of expression. "I am a Sagittarius, and our sign is a centaur and our planet is Jupiter," says Meyer. The Sagittarius symbol is usually a male centaur, but Meyer chose to make it female to represent feminine empowerment. "Another really important aspect in it is that the woman is a Native American - I take pride in my blood (almost 1/3 Abenaki) and I wanted to put some of my roots in my first tattoo."

Meyer will soon get the tattoo finished with some intricate colors and body armour on the centaur.

"I want to cover my body in tattoos. I plan on working for myself in the future and I think it's important to express yourself through ink. My whole left arm is going to be astrological, but I want my next tattoo to be a Tortoro, from my favorite childhood anime!"



Megan Comeau currently has two tattoos. The first is a scripture on her back that reads 'Gratitude: Evolve. Love. Embrace.' "The meaning behind it is that I am grateful for my family and friends and those who surround me," says Comeau. "I got it for my 16th birthday in Vermont, where you can be under 18 and get a tattoo with parental consent."

Her second is a wave on her ankle. "My mom has the same tattoo as me; it symbolizes a new start for my mom and I after we moved to the beach. It is just a symbol to not look back on the old life but on the new life." Comeau got this tattoo on her 17th birthday.



L-ROG: WHERE IS SHE NOW?



Andrew Gass
Features Writer

As I sat across from Mrs. Rogers at Johnson's Dairy Bar in Northwood, I couldn't help but smile at how little she has changed over the past two years. She is still the fun person that everybody at Oyster River had come to appreciate. Even though she has left ORHS, I know that I will never forget the impact she had on my life.

Mrs. Rogers has spent the past two years at Goffstown High School, which is just about an hour away, being the head of the guidance department. "Goffstown is an interesting school... It's a much better school than I realized when I went there," says Rogers. Just like Oyster River, it is a very accomplished school where the kids are very intelligent and also very nice. One of the big differences is that Goffstown has about 1200 kids, where Oyster River has just about 700 students.

As head of the guidance department Rogers meets with kids who have 504 plans (kids who have a physical need and require assistance), handles all foreign exchange kids, and does transcript reviews but that isn't all she is doing. Rogers has set up a homework den at Goffstown and is in charge of running that as well. She has enjoyed being with her new co-workers, stating, "The guidance department is awesome, every counselor is totally

dedicated to kids."

Rogers has found that being a head of guidance has given her the flexibility to do things outside the box without having to ask people. However she does miss being able to just do something, without having to go through another person. "It's a little bit of a different thing when you can make the decision yourself," said Rogers.

Mrs. Roger's absence from ORHS hasn't passed by unnoticed, students and administrators still have very fond memories of her. Mrs. Wotton says that she misses "her interactions with kids and some of the goofy things she said, like talking about chickens." A majority of the students at our school who were lucky to have had a chance to spend time with Rogers also have very nice memories of her and haven't forgotten the funny principal. "

Her attitude was always positive... she was excited to come to school" says senior Travis Hackett. He also believes that when she was here, school was a fun place to come to and that she made it seem like it wasn't a chore.

I think most kids would agree that Rogers did such a good job creating a fun environment where kids felt comfortable coming to learn. Senior Shauna Bulger says "as a student, I really liked Mrs. Rogers's personal touch on things." While Rogers was a principal, she was also there to be that friend that we all needed. Whenever you needed words of advice, her office was most always open and she was sitting there with a cheerful smile waiting to help out.

I can remember a few times when I had to speak with her and I was never afraid to walk into her office. No matter the reason, I knew that she was going to be fair and that I was most likely going to laugh a little. Roger's never made me feel like a truly bad kid, she had a charm about her that helped relax students and allowed them to be themselves.

Since making the switch from principal to guidance, Roger's has discovered that she has much more free time. She has the ability to do more things on her own time, which she was unable to do while being a principal. She and her husband have had the chance to buy a house in northern Maine. They have been fixing the house up in hopes to relax over the summer. All the work Rogers has done for students has most definitely earned this nice rest as she has endlessly done her duty to be the best educator possible. "Her commitment to these students here and to the faculty was really inspiring" says teacher Pam Raiford. Rogers always tried to do what she felt was best for the students, and as a result of that, we all benefited greatly.

LEGEND OF THE CREEKMAN

ALL-YEAR SWIMMER AND ACCORDIANIST



Ian Avery-Leaf
Media Manager

It's a seal! It's a submarine! It's a cormorant! No, it's Creekman! Every culture has its myths whether it is the feats of Hercules, the snow bound sasquatch, or the fabled Loch Ness Monster. Like legends of the past, the seacoast of NH and Southern Maine has the Creekman. This mythical creature swims Spruce Creek in Kittery and has also been seen swimming from Portsmouth to the Isle of Shoals. If you are ever driving down in Kittery, Maine, in the middle of winter and happen to see a man dressed in all black, crawl out of the river, don't be alarmed. What you just saw is the Creekman, finishing up his near-daily swim in Spruce Creek.

Gary Sredzienski is the man behind the goggles, and with an accordion in his hands too. In addition to swimming, Sredzienski is also an accomplished accordion player, with his work being featured in major films, video games, and television shows. Call of Duty and Bad News Bears are just two examples of many. "The accordion pays my bills," Sredzienski says. "So many people made fun of me my whole life for what I do. I love both [accordions and swimming] and these are things I've done my whole life. I got real good at doing both and did something with it. Most people have something really special, but don't do anything with it." In addition

to a solo career as a studio musician, and a radio show on WUNH, he is also an accordion player for the Serfs, a Portsmouth NH band for over 20 years. "I swim and play music. Why can't I be normal and boring like the rest of the world?"

Normally, people planning on swimming tend to stay away from cold water. Sredzienski was also one to shy away from cold waters at one point in his life, until his frustration with the weather became too much for him to stop swimming. "Around 15 to 20 years ago I was getting frustrated when my swimming season would end because of one chilly autumn rain," he states, "That's when I took an interest in wetsuits and experimenting with gear to extend my season." Sredzienski uses a unique combination of both Surf and SCUBA gear, because full Surf gear isn't warm enough and full SCUBA gear is too restrictive of movement. Wearing his hybrid suit allows him to swim all year round.

After growing used to the winter waters, Sredzienski decided to put his talent to use and swam his first charity swim in 2008, raising \$17,000 for charity.

This was the first of Creekman's six charity swims, which have raised over \$58,000 total. The most recent swim, which was an almost four mile stretch between Adams Point in Durham and Little Bay in Dover, was done to raise \$10,000 for the Center of Wildlife.

The adjustment to cold water swimming is something that shouldn't be taken lightly. Without proper knowledge and equipment, serious injury or death can occur from swimming in the cold. "It's been a constant education for me. Learning about this hostile environment and most of all learning about yourself," Sredzienski explains, "not only does your body have to adjust, but your mind has to get used to it. There is a primal animal self that steps forward in this venture and you learn about who you are as an animal. Your fight and flight features come through."

The Creekman has been swimming all his life and doesn't ever plan on stopping. "I purposely rent my house on Spruce Creek in Kittery so I can swim year round," he says, "To find acceptance for what I do, to harness this 'hydroelectric power', put it to use and do good for others. That's key. If you can have fun and help others at the same time.....it's a win win."

*"Why can't I be normal and boring
like the rest of the world?"*

-Gary Sredzienski

BOARDING VS. SKIING



Aaron Slepian
Features Editor

Ski season is now in full swing, there's powder decorating the sides of the glorious White Mountains and more and more east coast skiers and snow boarders are making the pilgrimage to their favorite ski areas, be it Loon, Wildcat, Gunstock or any other. But at least from my perspective there is always a little bit of tension between the skiers

and the boarders. It could be that the skiers have a superiority complex or it could be that the boarders feel as though skiers aren't chill enough. Whatever the problem is it definitely seems as though there is some resentment one way or the other.

Often when I'm on the lift a friend of mine or even myself will see a boarder shredding and carving their way down the trail, and say to one another something along the lines of "God damn snow boarders." I'm not sure why it is but I always feel like there is almost a sort of rivalry between the two groups. I think there might be some negative thinking routed simply in the choice of sport, skiers often feel as though skiing is the superior sport over snowboarding, likely because it is the original downhill snow sport and has a deep proud history. But boarders also find their respective sport superior, likely because it allows them to carve better and it is more of a free style sport. But in honesty these are all simply hypothesizes.

In order to first and foremost check the validity of my theory (that there is disdain between the two sports) and also to look into why this is, I looked to the most reliable sources; the people of Oyster River High School.

Junior Matt Segil, a life time skier, cut right to the chase, "Snowboarders are definitely inferior" he states, "it's simply the inferior way to enjoy winter's cold dandruff." Segil continues to address the snowboarders' manners on the slope, "They have very poor etiquette, with big jackets and long hats. Skiers know the proper size of a jacket, skiers know to always wear a helmet; there are hazards, like trees."

Junior Trevor Oakes also feels a little bitter toward snowboarders, unlike Segil, Oakes cites a personal reason, "As a child I got run over by a snow boarder, it wasn't even on a trail, it was at the top of the lift. He barely apologized, just boarded away."



Senior Derek Libby launching off a jump.

Oakes tells, driving the point home by stating, "They are a hazard." Patrick Mulhern, a sophomore who is an avid skier often doesn't mind boarders at all but says that "when they sit on the trail, they tick me off sometimes." Ironically enough senior snowboarder Adam Bergeron says the exact same about skiers, "I've only had one bad experience recently, I overheard some skiers whining about boarders taking up the trail when they sit down, and they always take up the trail with carving etcetera."

"[Snowboarders] have very poor etiquette, with big jackets and long hats. Skiers know the proper size of a jacket, skiers know to always wear a helmet."

-Matt Segil

Not all skiers possess these feelings of bitterness towards snow boarders. There are some skiers actually feel envious of I like men snowboarders, "I'm jealous of snow boarders, because I can't do it," teacher

Karen Van Dyke says "I tried once and almost killed a small child." Senior Olivia Moore feels similarly stating, "I kinda wish I was [a snowboarder], I think it would be fun." To be honest that opinion surprised me but it was more or less reciprocated by senior snowboarder Taylor Milliman who said, "I like skiing more than snowboarding...but I board anyway."

I think that senior Jason Rubinstein put it the best when he said "At Loon all the skiers are Mass-Holes and they all don't know how to ski, but somewhere like Gunstock they're all very good and courteous middle aged adults."

What Rubinstein is saying, simply put, is that there is no way to generalize whether skiers or boarders are more annoying than the other; it really depends on who the person is. The other main message that I got is that there is definitely some competition between the two parties and there is very little reason why.



Senior Chad Burns grinding a rail at Loon's terrain park.

OM - NOM - NOMINEES!



Emma Salvati
Features Writer

Aired every February since 1929, The Academy Awards is arguable the most prestigious awards show in the world. It is a night where you get a glimpse at A-list actors walking down the famous red carpet, flaunting their extravagant dresses and tuxedos, and talking about their great achievements. The high-class fashion can be a bit daunting, but The Oscars ultimately comes down to one thing: the art of film.

Film is a way to visually express ideas, share stories, and create characters in which people can feel connected to. Films can make us laugh, cry, cheer and scream, and the Academy Awards honors those who have excelled in creating a motion picture that brings an audience to its feet.

There are 24 categories that cover a variety of parts, such as music, cinematography, costume design, visual effects, short films, etc. I went on an expedition to see each film nominated for Best Picture before the Academy

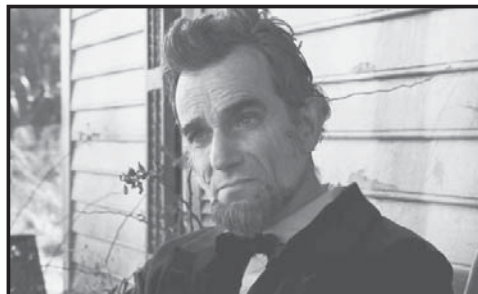
Lincoln

Directed by Steven Spielberg
Starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Sally Field, Tommy Lee Jones

Running for president and the Lincoln - Douglass Debates? Been there.

The Gettysburg Address? Seen that. His road to passing the Emancipation Proclamation? Now hold on just a second!

You think you were stressed out during midterms? Now think about how stressful it must have been to hold the fate of the Union in your hands. That's what it was like for President Lincoln in 1865 as the Civil War drew drearily to a close. From renowned director Steven Spielberg, this movie takes a vivid look into the 16th president's journey of convincing congress to pass a new amendment, which would ban slavery from the United States forever. Unless you're into history and politics, this film may drag on in some scenes; but the acting and cinematography is very well done. Any movie this dramatic is sure to catch the eye of The Academy, and is a strong contender for Best Picture.



Daniel Day-Lewis portrays President Lincoln.
Image courtesy of www.slate.com.

Zero Dark Thirty

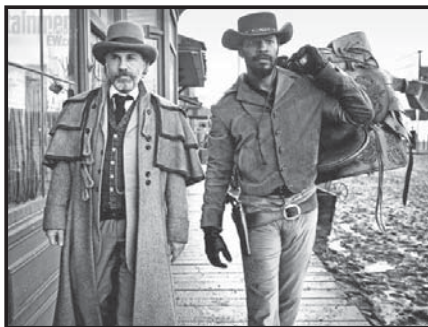
Directed by Kathryn Bigelow
Starring Jessica Chastain, Jason Clarke, Kyle Chandler

Known as "The Greatest Manhunt in History," Zero Dark Thirty is the true story about one women's search for al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. Beginning directly after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, CIA operative Maya (Chastain) is placed on the case to interrogate prisoners and track down bin Laden. Featuring some controversial interrogation tactics, this film is not one for people who are anti-torture.

One of the first things you see when the movie starts is an Iraqi detainee tied up with rope and tortured, so... just be ready for that.

It can be said that some of the most controversial films in history have been the most notable. 'Gone With the Wind' was controversial when it came out, but look what happened; it won a total of 20 Academy Awards, including best picture. Even though some people disagree with the idea of the film entirely, saying things like Bigelow scored top-secret information from the government, and that it glorifies torture, Zero Dark Thirty is arguably the most entertaining film of 2012. It was realistically terrifying and I probably jumped out of my seat 5 times while watching it.

This is Bigelow's second nomination for Best Director and Best Motion Picture, having taken home both awards in 2008 for 'The Hurt Locker.' She is the first female to have won Best Director.



Christoph Waltz and Jamie Foxx play bounty hunters in the old west.
Image courtesy of <http://www.businessinsider.com>

Django Unchained

Directed by Quentin Tarentino
Starring Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz, Leonardo DiCaprio

It is well known that Quentin Tarentino is one of the strangest directors (and people) in Hollywood, and although his films can often be offensive and racy, the final word is that they are everything he wanted them to be: a work of art. And that's exactly what 'Django Unchained' is: artwork in which each scene is perfectly sculpted, so that the final outcome reflects that of a masterpiece.

Known for Reservoir Dogs, Pulp Fiction and Inglorious Basterds, Tarentino returns with a Western-style film set two years before the Civil War. There are several recurrences in this years' Best Picture nominees, in that this is the second nominee about slavery, but 'Django Unchained' is four score and seven times more violent than Spielberg's 'Lincoln.'

Django is a slave that has been freed by bounty hunter and former dentist Dr. Schultz in order to help him find and kill a brotherhood of wanted criminals. Turns out Django enjoys 'killing white people for money,' so he partners up with Dr. Schultz, and in exchange the doctor agrees to help him find his wife.

'Django' was one of the most entertaining movies I have seen this past year. With Tarentino, there's no beating around the bush, he shows slavery the way it was in order to have an empathetic understanding of what it was like. It was clear how much thought and time went in to each shot, and Tarentino's reputation truly precedes him. The use of guns in this film was extensive and when there's blood there's a lot of it. An Oscar for Django might be out of reach due to some crazy fight scenes and wacky dialogue, but it will certainly be a film to remember.

Silver Linings Playbook

Directed by David O. Russell
Starring Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence, Robert De Niro

Silver Linings Playbook is about a man named Pat (Cooper), who is recently released from a mental institution, and goes through a phase of self-improvement in order to better himself for his wife (whom he last saw cheating on him). He reads all the books she assigned to her class, loses weight, and lives by the phrase 'excelsior,' meaning 'ever upward,' as he tries to find a silver lining in every situation.

This film was more surprising than anything. Prior to seeing it, I had no idea what the movie was about, and its poster at the theater honestly made it look corny. I can recall my brother saying he didn't want to see it because it was a 'chick flick.' After seeing it, it's clear that it was nowhere near a 'chick flick.' Silver Linings Playbook had a clever, original storyline and was hilarious the whole way through. It was a little strange seeing Bradley Cooper jump from hung-over in Vegas to a sensitive bi-polar man with poor social skills, but he fit the part perfectly. I can't say the same for Jennifer Lawrence, who's played Tiffany, a strange, troubled woman who counter-acted Pat. Lawrence didn't seem to fit Tiffany's troubled personality. She recently played teenage Katniss Everdeen in the *Hunger Games*, so maybe she was out of her element as a widow in her 20's.

Les Misérables

Directed by Tom Hooper

Starring Hugh Jackman, Gerard Butler, Anne Hathaway

For anyone who has never seen the play, if you choose to see this film you may get something out of it that you weren't expecting. If you don't like musicals, keep an open mind, because this movie is more than people singing about how terrible their lives are. The original *Les Misérables* was first published in 1862 by Victor Hugo, and is considered one of the greatest literary works of the 19th century.

Set in the 19th-century after the French revolution, this movie features an all-star cast that tell a story of crime, war, love and death - all through song. In her dying wish, factory worker Fantine (Hathaway) has asked Jan Valjean (Jackman) to find and take care of her daughter (Amanda Seyfried). Valjean finds the young girl, Cosette, and raises her as his own. True to its name, you and the other audience members will leave the theater feeling très misérable.

Amour

Directed by Michael Haneke

Starring Jean-Louis Trintignant, Emmanuelle Béart

I think it's a fair prediction to say that the majority of people have not seen the film *Amour*, maybe not even heard of it until the nominations came out. *Amour* (meaning 'love') is a French drama created by Austrian film maker Michael Haneke. It is about an elderly couple, Anne and Georges, who are retired music teachers. One day, Anne suffers a stroke that leaves the right side of her body paralyzed, and Georges is left to take care of her.

For some reason, everyone seems to love this film. Critics praise it, and it currently has 8 out of 10 stars on IMDb. Maybe it was the fact that it was in French, or maybe it was because it was so goshdarn depressing, but I found myself extremely bored while watching it. There was really only one setting, their apartment in France, and the majority of the dialogue was exchanged between Georges and Anne. Everything appeared to drag on, and seemed to be done in a grey undertone. No one smiled, and you know the ending already because it's the first scene of the movie. If I wanted to see French people crying and dying I would've watched *Les Misérables* a second time.

Even though *Amour* was boring at times, it was still done very well. The emotion between Anne and Georges is very

strong, and the entire thing is almost realistically horrifying. There are very few things in this world that are more difficult than watching a loved one in pain, and the film *Amour* captures that wholeheartedly.

Beasts of the Southern Wild

Directed by Benh Zeitlin

Starring Quvenzhané Wallis, Dwight Henry, Levy Easterly



Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper.
Courtesy of screenrant.com.

"The whole universe depends on everything fitting together just right. If one piece busts, even the smallest piece... the entire universe will get busted." says six-year-old Hushpuppy, a little girl living with her father in New Orleans. They live in a southern delta that faces flooding due to melting ice caps, and Hushpuppy must learn how to survive on her own.

Beasts of the Southern Wild is probably one of the lesser known films in this year's list of nominations.

It premiered at the Sundance Film Festival this previous summer, and is currently nominated for four Academy Awards; including Best Actress for 9-year-old Quvenzhané Wallis (who was six during filming). The Best Actress nomination seems a little far-fetched to me, as Wallis' performance didn't stick out the most in the film, and wasn't as good as other work by fellow nominees such as Jessica Chastain or Sally Field.

It was filmed on location in Louisiana, and many of the actors were residents of the area depicted in the movie. It's almost unbelievable watching little Hushpuppy as she deals with her father's failing health and the destruction of her hometown. Even though she is only six, she appears to be more mature than any adult in the film as she tells the story of her island home and tries to fix the pieces of the universe that have fallen out of place.

Beasts of the Southern Wild is a beautiful story told from the perspective of child, which is something not often done. The movie is creative, original, and captivating, and although there are some strange parts, *Beasts of the Southern Wild* is a film everyone should take the time to see.

Life of Pi

Directed by Ang Lee

Starring Suraj Sharma, Irrfan Khan



Pi fights for survival after being shipwrecked.
Courtesy of movies.ndtv.com

Life of Pi tells the fantastic tale of a young boy Pi Patel whose ship crashes and strands him on the open water with no other companions other than a Bengal tiger. Pi must use his wits and skills to survive the threats of the open ocean while befriend the tiger. "Life of Pi" is an incredible display of CGI, the movie is visually stunning and it is truly hard to believe that Pi himself is the only thing in the movie that is not completely computer generated. The movie is beautiful, and will likely bring most every viewer to tears with its touching story and amazing imagery.

Argo

Directed by Ben Affleck

Starring Ben Affleck, Bryan Cranston, Alan Arkin

Ben Affleck truly displays his directing abilities with *Argo* not to mention his acting. *Argo* is based on the true story of American diplomats held hostage in Iran. The CIA must use their knowledge and expertise to extract the diplomats using an incredibly imaginative plot. The CIA creates a fake movie production and decides to "film on location" in Iran, the CIA uses this guise to gain access to the fugitive diplomats and safely remove them from Iran. *Argo* brings out Affleck's triple threat qualities as director, producer and actor; the movie is incredibly filmed, making the viewers feel as though they are right beside Affleck, experiencing the events as though they were there. The acting in the movie drives its success home, from John Goodman to Bryan Cranston. *Argo* won Best Picture and Best Director at the Golden Globes, which might be a prediction for the coming Academy Awards.

DEAR MOUTH OF THE RIVER,

I like beans but they give me gas. What should I do?

-Legume Problems

DEAR LEGUME PROBLEMS,
A wise man once told me: "Beans, beans, the magical fruit/The more you eat, the more you toot/The more you toot, the better you feel/ So you should have beans at every meal!" Keep these words of wisdom in your heart and eat beans as often as you want; the gas is nothing to be ashamed of.

So Adelia Couser is one sexy beast. How can I mold my body to attract her flawless face?

-I LOVE ADELIA

DEAR I LOVE ADELIA,
We agree - Adelia's great! But she cares more about what's on the inside, so don't worry about "molding" your body to make it perfect. Try taking our compatibility test on page __ and see if you match up with her! If so, try starting a conversation and let the love grow from there...

I really like this guy who is always super busy with HW and sports. I feel like he likes me to but we barely ever talk outside of school or even in school. Should I be worried that he's talking to other people or is he really "just busy"?

-Ignored

DEAR IGNORED,
If he really liked you, he would make time for you even with a busy schedule. If you barely talk in or out of school, it doesn't sound promising. Maybe instead of him just telling you he is busy all the time, ask him when he is FREE.

That way, he can't make an excuse, and if he still doesn't want to hang out I would try to move on and find someone who makes an effort to see you. It shouldn't have to be like a chore!

How do I gain Nirvana? -Seeking Happiness

DEAR SEEKING HAPPINESS,

A Nirvana pursuer named Arvind Devalia recommends the following exercise: "Close your eyes, breathe deeply 3 times, and visualize a time when you felt really blissful and joyous. Remember what it was you were seeing, hearing and feeling at the time. Relax your face and allow yourself to smile - it's okay to be happy." We also recommend getting plenty of sleep, socializing with people you like, eating regularly and healthily, and trying not to let school-related stress impact your life too much. Good luck!

I'm losing hair and my hair line is receding on both sides of my head. I'm very concerned about balding!! Help?!

-Concerned about Hair

DEAR CONCERNED ABOUT HAIR,
We looked at a couple websites for you, and you may be suffering from any the following:

-Typical minor hair loss: not all your hair grows at the same rate, so occasionally more may fall out at once, leading to some temporary bald spots.

-Androgenetic Alopecia (male pattern baldness), which is caused by hormones and genetics - but it's not serious!

-Hair Growth Interruption: If you've recently had surgery or been through a traumatic event, these things can temporarily stunt or disrupt hair growth.

-Health problems: Conditions such as ringworm of the scalp or alopecia areata (round/oval patches of bald skin) are caused by problems in your immune system and can be cured with prescribed medicine.

-Other causes: Not eating enough, dyeing your hair often, or constantly straightening it can also lead to hair loss.

We'd recommend making an appointment with your doctor, though, since nobody at MOR is a certified physician.

I tried texting some people who I kinda know but would like to know better as friends, but they didn't respond back. I'm not really good with face-to-face because I'm scared of it being awkward. What should I do?

-Lonely

DEAR LONELY,
A lot of people aren't into having long conversations over text, so that might not be the best way to get to know them. You should really try to talk to them in person; if you tend to freeze up when talking face-to-face, we suggest coming up with a conversation starter ahead of time, like mentioning a class you both have together or asking what their plans are for the weekend. This way you prevent an awkward silence, and get to know the person better!

So I may or may not have killed someone. Let's say I did...what's a good place to bury the body?

-Just Curious

DEAR JUST CURIOUS,

Well, we asked Siri and she suggested these:

Cremation services

Mortuaries

Dumps

Mines

Funeral services

Reservoirs

Good luck!

Mr. Bromley never lets me go to the bathroom. I feel as though he thinks this is an unnecessary human action. How do I get him to change his ways? -Struggling thru Science

DEAR STRUGGLING THRU SCIENCE,

Since Jon Bromley is a highly esteemed science teacher here at ORHS, he most likely understands the fact that humans need to answer nature's call every few hours. With that in mind, he's probably not letting you go because he's in the middle of giving instructions or finishing up an important presentation. Try asking him when you have downtime in class - or just use the bathroom beforehand and get rid of the issue altogether.



MOR COMPATIBILITY TEST

WHICH STAFF MEMBER WOULD YOU HIT IT OFF WITH BEST?

Valentine's Day is less than 48 hours away, and the season of love is upon us...that's why

Corey and Adelia have put together a compatibility test just for you! With only six easy questions, you can uncover your inner personality and discover what makes you tick and attracts other people to you. You will also learn which MOR staff member is your soulmate; whoever you match up with, don't be afraid to ask them out on a date sometime. Good luck!

1.) What could you find yourself doing on a typical Saturday night?

- A. Snuggled up on the couch watching Pitch Perfect, either by yourself or with a friend. You don't mind having some quiet time.
- B. Chillin' at 24. It's a good way to kill time.
- C. Sleeping. You're usually pretty tired from all the work you've been doing.
- D. Dinner and a movie with all your friends. You're pretty busy and you love being social.

2.) What quality do you look for most in a potential partner?

- A. Good sense of humor. You could never be with someone who doesn't make you laugh!
- B. Good looks. You know it's what's on the inside that counts, but you can't help noticing how attractive someone is...
- C. Easy to talk to. You don't like having to carry the conversation.
- D. Adventurous. You love people who aren't afraid to express themselves!

3.) Most commonly used App?

- A. Snapchat.
- B. Angry Birds or iAssociate.
- C. Instagram.
- D. Twitter or Facebook.

4.) What song describes you most?

- A. *Love Story* by Taylor Swift or *Whole Lotta Love* by Led Zeppelin.
- B. *Keep Floatin'* by Mac Miller ft. Wiz Khalifa or *I Don't Care* by Fall Out Boy.
- C. *Some Nights* by Fun. or *What's Happening?!?! by The Byrds.*
- D. *Good People* by Jack Johnson or *God Put A Smile Upon Your Face* by Coldplay.

5.) When all your homework is done, we could find you...

- A. Catching up with friends.
- B. Watching an all-new episode of your favorite TV show.
- C. Downloading some new music or browsing the internet.
- D. At sports practice or dance rehearsal.

6.) In ten years you could see yourself...

- A. Married with a baby or in a serious relationship.
- B. I have no idea!
- C. In a social or art job, like a teacher, photographer, or therapist.
- D. In a math, science, or business job, like an engineer, doctor, or CEO.

MOSTLY A's:

You are a very caring person. You tend to value your family and friends above all else - to the point where you could get hurt easily due to your sensitive nature. Potential lovers will feel safe coming to you for advice due to your level-headedness and willingness to help with anything.

You would hit it off with Corey Scarano, Eliza Mae Brown, or Cam Messer!

MOSTLY B's:

You have a pretty laid-back personality. You usually prefer relaxing to working, and while this does temporarily reduce stress in your life, procrastinating can lead you to scramble later on. However, you are a great person to hang out with, and potential lovers will appreciate you for your fun-loving lifestyle.

You would hit it off with Andrew Gass, Emma Salvati, or Adrian Schidlovsky!

MOSTLY C's:

In general, you tend to be pretty reserved and quiet. You usually come out of your shell around your friends, though, and people know they can count on you to get stuff done. Potential lovers will appreciate your sweet personality and your knack for creativity.

You would hit it off with Ian Avery-Leaf, Adelia Couser, or China Wong!

MOSTLY D's:

You are a very outgoing person. You probably have a wide circle of friends and participate in a variety of activities, including sports and extracurricular clubs. You don't mind being the center of attention, and potential lovers will appreciate your charisma and social ease - just be careful not to hog the spotlight.

You would hit it off with Zach Park, Chase Klewicki, or Nick Lazar!



HOROSCOPES!



Adelia Couser
Editor in Chief

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO AQUARI, PISCES, AND ARIES!



Aries (March 21-April 19)

MOR staff matches: None.

While sound asleep in your bed, you'll hear a rumbling noise outside your house and awake to find a giant herd of guinea pigs thundering towards your front door! While they make delightful pets, the mountain of soft furry animals will require constant care, so you won't be able to go out with your friends for a few weeks until the Cochecho Valley Humane Society gets control of the situation. Sorry.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

MOR staff matches: Zach Park (4/23), Adelia Couser (5/11).

The three moons of former planet Pluto have indicated you as a prime partner for Libra individuals, and your best chance of capturing their hearts is to come to school on Valentine's Day dressed in full Cupid attire. The bow. The arrows. The diaper. They won't be able to resist!

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

MOR staff matches: Cam Messer (6/16), Corey Scarano (6/19).

Your impatient nature has been getting the best of you lately, and you've been finding it hard to dredge up enough motivation to concentrate on schoolwork. Don't worry! Shortly after Valentine's Day, Baloo the Bear from *The Jungle Book* will take you away to spend a carefree day in the jungle! You'll gather bananas and sing "The Bare Necessities" 24/7. When you come back, your motivation will be completely refreshed!

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

MOR staff matches: China Wong (7/12).

The amount of mood swings you've been having lately seems about as ridiculous as the fact that Leo DiCaprio and Johnny Depp have never won Oscars. However, your life is about to take a turn for the better! After your spontaneous appearance in the freshmen gym classes to show off your tango, swing, and waltz skills, an awestruck Mr. Morin will call up his Backstreet Boys pals and get you booked as a backup dancer for their sold-out shows! Wow!

Leo (July 23-August 22)

MOR staff matches: Eliza Brown (8/4).

While shoveling out your driveway in sub-zero temperatures (cursing your life and the stupid New England weather), you'll feel your skin turning colder and colder until you become a snowman! Wow! You will now have the power to do whatever you want. Go to Newington and see a free movie - who charges a snowman for a ticket? Walk into DHOP and amaze the staff with your appearance. Be creative!

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

MOR staff matches: None.

In the very near future, you will visit a local McDonald's drive-thru in the hopes of getting some hot food to offset the bitterly cold New Hampshire weather. How-

ever, when you drive up to the ordering microphone thing, your car will sprout wings and ascend into the sky! On your way up, you will pass the Magic School Bus, Frozone from *The Incredibles*, and all five members of One Direction on their way to stardom. Will you ever come down again? You'll just have to wait and see...

Libra (September 23-October 22)

MOR staff matches: Ian Avery-Leaf (9/26), Mr. Kelly (9/27), Emma Salvati (10/11), Adrian Schidlovsky (10/12).

It's your turn to be paired up with another zodiac sign! This Valentine's Day, shower a Taurus with love, chocolate, and stuffed animals. No, really! Get Mr. Thibault's help to construct a giant showerhead that will pour these symbols of love onto your target's head all day long. They won't be able to resist.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

MOR staff matches: Chase Klewicki (9/18).

The stars have determined that the afternoon before Valentine's Day, there is a high chance of your friends or significant other cancelling any plans you've made...bummer. But don't worry! With his trademark gigantic sunglasses and flowing dreadlocks, 2 Chainz himself (your hero) will burst through your roof with several heart-shaped boxes of chocolate! Enjoy a night of chilling with the man and listening to meaningful classics like "Ghetto Dreams" and "I'm Different"!

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

MOR staff matches: None.

Remember those Love-O-Matic tests that you took during Focus back in January? (The really pink sheets with a million questions and bubble-in-the-answers stuff...) Well, little did you know that YOURS just so happened to be 100% accurate! Jupiter's alignment with Saturn is pushing you to do everything you can to be with the top 5 people on your list. If that means following them to every class, clearing them a path to the lunch line using Mr. Cangello's podium chariot, or joining the boys'/girls' varsity basketball team to play by their side, then so be it.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

MOR staff matches: None.

The winter season tends to get you down, and so in the coming weeks you will receive a pleasant surprise from the Holiday Gods! St. Patrick, the Easter Bunny, and the relatively unknown Colonel Aprilfools will join forces to throw you the best cheering-up party in the world! Prepare to enjoy chocolate eggs, hidden pots of gold, and well-meaning practical jokes very soon. Be sure to Instagram pictures of the event!

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

MOR staff matches: Aaron Slepian (2/4).

You must be pretty fed up with turning into teachers by now. (Sure, Morin and Reeves are great guys, but they're just not as awesome as you.) Anyway, now that you're back to normal, you are fully prepared to live life to the fullest. However, while making your way through the hallways one day, you'll accidentally answer "Awesome!" to everyone who asks you how you're doing. You'll fall to the floor, head spinning, etc. and arise with undying love and loyalty to The Great State of Ohio pulsing through your veins. You have become Mr. Hawley.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

MOR staff matches: Nick Lazar (2/24), Andrew Gass (3/2).

It's great that you haven't gotten assassinated by a faceless battle-axe wielder yet, but this means that the saga will only intensify from now on. During Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, and April Fool's, be on the lookout at every moment. Don't trust any candy that's given to you, especially if it comes in one of those oversized velvet-encrusted heart boxes and ESPECIALLY if it's autographed by Jay-Z and Beyonce's baby, Blue Ivy. Good luck again.



Nick Lazar
Sports Writer

FAB FIVE

Sports movies have always been inspirational tales of what people can overcome with the odds stack against them in certain moments. It shows personal and team journeys throughout their season to beat the doubts of people telling them what they can't possibly do. Most of the plots in this kind of genre are teams that are a huge underdogs and often don't have the most skill talent wise, but always have great team chemistry and band together to defeat the oppsing team. A key factor often times in sports movies is having the people watching connect and root for the person or team to do well throughout the movie. I talked to several student athletes at Oyster River about what they thought the top five sports movies of all time should be. With their help I created a top five sports movie list of all time.

5. Remember the Titans

This takes place in a suburban town in Virginia where one black and one white high school are closed and the students are sent to T.C. Williams High School under federal mandate to integrate. The year is seen through the eyes of the football team where the man hired to coach the Black school is made head coach over the highly successful white coach. Based on the actual events of 1971, the team becomes the unifying symbol for the community as the boys and the adults learn to depend on and trust each other.

"Remember the Titans is an inspiring movie that all ages can watch." -Ryan Kerrigan



Ryan Kerrigan reveling in one of his favorite sports movie.

4. Coach Carter

Ken Carter, a successful sporting goods store owner, accepts the job of basketball coach for his old high school in a poor area of Richmond, CA, where he was a champion athlete. As much dismayed by the poor attitudes of his players as well as their dismal play performance, Carter sets about to change both. He immediately imposes a strict regime typified in written contracts that include stipulations for respectful behavior, a dress code and good grades as requisites to being allowed to participate. Throughout the movie Carter fights to keep his methods, determined to show the boys that they need to rely on more than sports for their futures and eventually finds he has affected them more profoundly than he ever expected.

"Coach Carter is one of my favorites because I can easily relate to it." -Anthony Shea

3. Miracle

This movie inspired the story of a team that transcended its sport and united a nation with a new feeling of hope. Based on the true story of one of the greatest moments in sports history, the tale captures a time and place where differences could be settled by games and a cold war could be put on ice. In 1980, the United States Ice Hockey team's coach, Herb Brooks, took a ragtag squad of college kids up against the legendary juggernaut from the Soviet Union at the Olympic Games. Despite the long odds, Team USA carried the pride of a nation yearning from a distraction from world events.

2. Rudy

Rudy Ruettiger grows up in a Catholic, working class family that loves Notre Dame Football. He does not have the grades, the size or the talent to get into his beloved school so he follows his brothers and father into work at the steel plant. After his twenty-second birthday his best friend Pete who always believed in him dies in an accident. Rudy then realizes that it is now or never to follow his life-long dream to play for the Fighting Irish. Despite fear of failure from his father and girlfriend he leaves to pursue his goal. Rudy realizes showing up is not enough to get him into the university. With the encouragement of a priest, he enrolls in Holy Cross Junior College. There he gets help from a tutor who helps him deal with his reading disability and finally get good grades. Finally, Rudy gets accepted and upon transferring in to the school, he gets a chance as a practice squad player for the team for two years. Encouraged by his persistence and spunk, Rudy inspires the team and is allowed to dress for one game by the coach, where he is triumphantly carried off the field by his fellow teammates.

1. Hoosiers

A classic tale of redemption, this film features a volatile coach and a former star player-turned alcoholic leading a small-town basketball team on an improbable run to the Indiana high school championship game. Coach Norman Dale encounters several hurdles in his path: a stubborn teacher determined to keep the best player from going out for the team, a town full of second-guessing fathers, and a group of undisciplined athletes. This story inspired by the Milan (Indiana) Indians' state title of 1954.



Chase Klewicki
Op-Ed Editor

Every year during fall, winter, and spring, student athletes at ORHS go through the process of tryouts. This is a very touchy subject, with students either feeling great accomplishment for making the desired team, or harsh disappointment for not reaching their goal. Oyster River strives to make the process fair, but within the school there is disagreement about what a fair tryout involves.

One of the main issues that needs to be addressed within the idea of fair is which players should make the team: the most talented, the most hardworking, the most experienced? At Oyster River students seem to support the notion that the most talented and physically prepared students should make the team. "The best players should make the team, the players that can work well together and elevate their teams to a better record," comments junior Aidan Conrad. However, the coaches and administrators disagree. Mr. Allen, paraprofessional and three season coach says, "The kids who hustle have a good attitude and work well with coaches and players [should make the team]."

There is validity on both sides of this issue. Athletes who have put the work in and excelled at their chosen sport should make the team because in the realm of sports and winning they deserve to be on the field or court since they are physically better. However on the other side we have to remember that these are high school sports programs and that the goal of these sports programs is not necessarily to have the best record, but to create a positive experience for these student athletes. Senior and three season athlete Seamus Clancy outlines the middle ground well. "I think for a player to make any team they have to bring something positive; even if it's not talent, a hardworking kid should make the team if he's going to make other kids better, but kids need to know their role."

Another issue that needs to be addressed within tryouts at Oyster River is the placement of seniors on teams. There are two concerns within this topic. First, it seems that there is an unwritten rule within the Oyster River community that a senior who tries out for the team should make the team regardless of talent. Senior Zack Jones's conveys this impression, "In my experience I have seen times where less talented seniors make varsity over more talented underclassmen." The second is whether seniors who are not talented enough to play at a varsity level should be able to play for junior varsity teams. "We don't want to load up junior varsity teams with seniors, for one because J.V. is a feeder team for varsity, and also because seniors could hurt other athletes since they are considerably more physically developed," comments Dave Nichols, former Athletic Director and girls' varsity basketball coach.

"I don't think as a coach you should be cutting them as a senior if they played as a sophomore or junior," says Nichols. The fact of the matter is a line needs to be drawn in regard to less talented seniors making the team over more talented underclassmen. There are obvious benefits for taking

WHAT'S FAIR?

TRYOUTS AT OYSTER RIVER

more talented underclassmen directly correlating with team success but it seems at an individual level taking a less talented senior can be better for the sports program in the long run.

"[Taking a less talented senior] often works for the better as the

"We don't want to load up junior varsity teams with seniors, for one because J.V. is a feeder team for varsity, and also because seniors could hurt other athletes since they are considerably more physically developed."

-Dave Nichols

underclassmen have the opportunity to be leaders on the J.V. team and are then more prepared for the role when they become seniors," adds Jones.

On the other side of this Conrad states "It is detrimental to teams during practice, games, and team events to

have [non varsity level] seniors." It is obviously a judgment call deciding which players to cut and which players to take but coaches need to decide what is best for the program and what is best for the individuals. This means when deciding to cut seniors it needs to be determined if their lack of talent will hurt the team considerably, or whether they can maintain the varsity level of play and allow underclassmen to gain experience at a J.V. level.

The next issue of whether seniors, who are cut from varsity, should be able to play for J.V. teams seems to have a large grey area. "I think if a kid wants to play and is at a J.V. level why not let them," contributes Allen. We want to give student athletes the opportunity to play sports for their school but at the same time we do not want an all seniors



The boy's basketball team watching the game.

J.V. team. When Nichols was A.D. he put in place a policy where seniors could not play on J.V. without the athletic director's permission. He is not completely against the idea of seniors playing on J.V. but wary of the implications of seniors on J.V. teams. His policy seems to have eliminated seniors from being able to play J.V. rather than ensuring that only qualified seniors play for J.V. If a senior

"I think for a player to make any team they have to bring something positive; even if it's not talent, a hardworking kid should make the team if he's going to make other kids better, but kids need to know their role."

-Seamus Clancy

wants to play J.V. and is at the J.V. skill level, it should be up to the varsity and J.V. coach whether they can play for J.V., not the athletic director, because the coaches have evaluated the players and know their skill level.

Tryouts are tough on players and coaches with hard decisions being made in regard

to who makes the team and who doesn't. We hope that the process seems fair and tryouts are conducted in an acceptable manner, but it seems inevitable at the end of the day someone will be hurt. If a student wants to play for a sports program at Oyster River, they should be allowed to and allocated to the appropriate team depending on their skill level, regardless of their age.

PRETENTIOUS PORTFOLIOS



Corey Scarano
Guest Op-Ed
Writer

"Why do we need to do work for the work we've already done? We've already been graded on everything we will submit. Colleges don't have the time to look at these, so it just seems a like bunch of added pressures to seniors," states Kaeli McPhee, regarding digital portfolios.

In 2005, schools in the state of New Hampshire started requiring students to make a "digital portfolio" in order to graduate. These portfolios ideally are supposed to have around a dozen artifacts to show a student's work in a variety of ways from grades K-12. There are many different categories in which you're supposed to fill with all different assignments. Fred Bramante, an author and a large advocate for the digital portfolios, told fellow MOR staff member Adrian Schidlovsky in an earlier interview that, "We only care that the kids learn!"

But who says we're not learning? From the grade of kindergarten to this second semester of my senior year, I have learned an immense amount of information. I have learned the basics such as how to spell and write in cursive. I have learned about the world wars, geography, and American history. I have learned how to speak, write, and understand French; I have learned how to do logarithms and even matrices. I don't think the question of learning comes into play when speaking about digital portfolios, where we are taking what we have already been taught and placing that in organized folders.

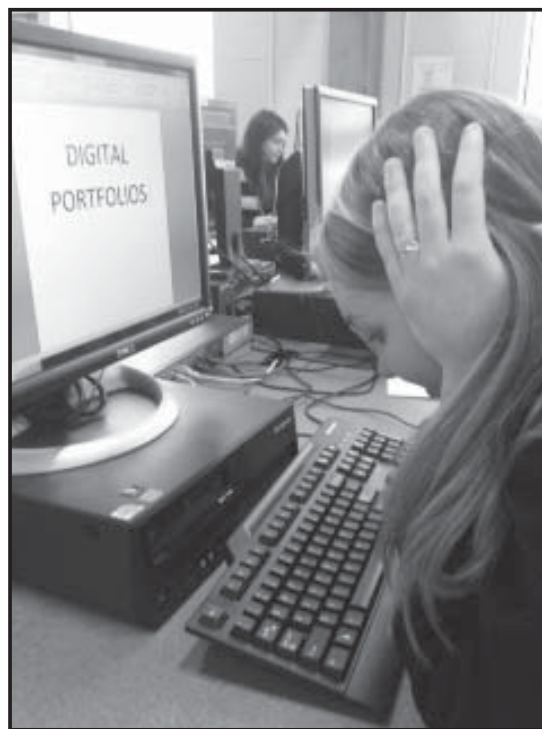
Luckily for my grade, since we're being "eased into" digital portfolios, we only have to do seven artifacts. But as the years go on, more and more artifacts and responses will be assigned to the students. Since the fifth grade, I have been encouraged to delete many files that I no longer need to save space in my folder. Then, in come digital portfolios that require many assignments in categories such as, "Digital Citizenship" and "Research and Information Fluency;" now it would be useful to have all those old files that I was encouraged to, and did, delete.

Senior Ellen Sievert expresses, "It shouldn't be required because it doesn't benefit anyone." But Principal Todd Allen explains, "It

is important to know that the digital portfolio requirement came about due to NH state requirements. As a school we have to prove that our students have mastered a variety of technology related skills. We felt it was best to do so by utilizing projects and activities that were already in place. To keep track of this we created the digital portfolio."

For twelve years now, we have been assigned hundreds of projects, papers, tests, and homework assignments. Every single time we turned those in, we received a grade. Those grades turned into a report card, those report cards turned into a GPA. If someone carries the GPA of a 3.5, that is proof that they have done their work, and done it well. But now, on top of all our school work, college applications, jobs, and sports, we also need to squeeze in room to make this digital portfolio because if we don't, we won't graduate. I thought if I had 24 credits I could graduate. I thought that since half of the senior grade is already into college, we could graduate. But because the portfolio holds so much weight, you have to complete it before you put on that graduation cap.

"Why do we need to do work for the work we've already done?"
-Kaeli McPhee



Molly McQuade lost and confused about digital portfolios.

Senior class president, Brennan Young states, "I believe the ORHS faculty and staff have made a strong effort to help in any way they can with these portfolios, but I also believe their faith in these lack as well because it's hard to see the relevant use of such a program. It's easy to repeat the phrase 'it's preparing us for college and the future technology endeavors,' but let's be honest, forcing me to pull up old assignments and projects in order to put them into another project and reflect my opinion on them is a waste of energy and time."

Digital portfolios do have potential to be a useful assignment for us, but they are not being executed well. The only real time we got a step by step on how to do them was freshman year- three and a half years ago. If the school really wanted these to benefit the students, they should be integrated more into our everyday schedule.

Mr. Allen agrees by stating, "The worst thing right now is that it is a challenge to get it embedded in the coursework because students and teachers alike are used to something different. It creates a feeling by the seniors in particular that the portfolio is separate from their academic experience. Things that are not connected to what people value feel like a waste of time. I am hopeful this will change with time."



Zach Park
Sports Editor

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

There are many different fashion statements, activities, music, etc. that we encounter in life every day. We constantly judge and rate these simple every day things. There are many that are underappreciated, while others get way too much love. I will dive into the ultimate underrated and overrated list.

UNDERRATED

Nike Air Force Ones-In my opinion, these are the best looking casual shoes on the market. I actually own four pairs myself. They are the perfect mix

between a sporty look and a boot look. Nike has been making these shoes for over 30 years and were initially basketball shoes. They are constantly making new models and colors and come in low, mid and high tops. The most underrated part of these shoes is the origin of the name. Nike compared these shoes to the famous plane saying players are able to fly while playing in these shoes. Junior Ryan Kerrigan recently purchased a pair and is absolutely loving them. "They are extremely comfortable and fresh to death." These shoes provide comfort along with style which isn't always an easy combination to find. Any guy who takes pride in the shoes he wears should absolutely own a pair of these.



Senior Chase Klewick, juniors Ryan Kerrigan and Nick Lazar showing off their fresh kicks.

House Music/Beatport-First off, with a genre of music, it's completely personal taste and I completely understand if people don't like certain music. I just don't think house is given enough credit and much of a chance by people. For those that don't know what house is, it's electronic dance music. No, I am not talking about dubstep. There are many different genres within house. I highly suggest listening to progressive. This includes DJs such as Hardwell, Zedd, Swedish House Mafia and Madeon, whom I all highly encourage everyone to check out. Fellow house enthusiast Zack Jones believes it is really starting to pick up. "This trend has really taken off in the past year or so and now there are countless examples of progressive drops on the radio." It does seem clear that mainstream music is also displaying this electronic movement. If you don't like the music, then so be it but I really doubt you won't find a couple songs you like.

Speaking of finding house songs, finding music isn't always easy. That's what Beatport is for. It's pretty much just iTunes but only for house music. It's constantly updated and sorted by a Top 100 list for every genre of house. It's a really easy place to find the top and newest electronic music.

College Basketball-I bet only five kids in our school are truly college basketball fans and watch it throughout the season. That's a big issue. We have numerous Pats, Bruins and some Celtics fans at our school but very little who support a college basketball team even though it's clearly the most entertaining sport to watch due to all the great matchups on a nightly basis and the involvement of the crowd. Fellow college basketball fanatic Cody Kondratenko adds, "I love college basketball because the players are playing for something. Most won't go to the NBA but are playing for the pride of the school and themselves." He also adds the great crowd and venues such as Allen Fieldhouse and Cameron Indoor Stadium as a big reason for his love of college basketball. Its crowds have a bigger impact on the outcome of a game than any other sport, by far. That just simply adds to the greatness of college basketball because of another added variable. A vastly underrated part of college basketball is the length of the season and frequency of games. Baseball is too long, so is NBA, and the NFL only plays once a week. There's college basketball nationally televised six days a week and lasts five months. This makes the regular season as interesting, if not more interesting, than any other sport. But of course March Madness is what makes college basketball the greatest sport in the country. I, along with Kondratenko, still believe school should be cancelled on the Thursday and Friday of the opening weekend so people don't miss any games. Yes, it really is that big of a deal.

OVERRATED

Rajon Rondo-Before I start bashing Rondo, I would like to wish him the best and a speedy recover from his ACL tear. Rondo is probably the most liked player on the Celtics and quite possibly the most liked athlete at ORHS. I get it; he's a great player and one of the best passers in the league. He racks up triple doubles and stuffs the stat sheet but I've been watching the NBA since I was four, and I've never been so frustrated watching one player in my life. I would argue that no one since Wilt Chamberlain has cared this much about their stats and been so selfish about personal accolades. He won't cover players on defense so he can get in the paint to grab rebounds in attempt to get a triple double. It's absolutely infuriating and simply ridiculous to watch. While it is improving, his jump shot is still very inconsistent. The problem is that he doesn't seem to get that. Rather than giving the ball to one of the most clutch players in the league, Paul Pierce, he takes stupid jump shots late in the shot clock and late in games trying to win the game singlehandedly (examples: game at Philadelphia on December 7th, game vs Dallas on December 12th). On top of that, he's a complete punk. He's constantly trying to act really tough on the court and it has resulted in him getting suspended three times in the past two years. While many Celtics fans believe this season is a complete lost cause, we should all keep in mind that the Celtics' two biggest wins (at New York and vs. Miami) were both without Rondo. Amazingly enough, in the past couple of years, the Celtics have posted a better record without him than with him. He's absolutely a good player, but I truly believe that in many ways; he hurts the Celtics.

Twitter-Before we get anywhere, don't get me wrong, I love Twitter. I use Twitter every day and can't imagine a day without it. But this list isn't for whether things are simply good or bad; it's a question whether something is underrated or overrated. At the moment, Twitter is overrated. Everyone talks about how much better Twitter is than Facebook, which it absolutely is but there are too many similarities arising. The problem with Facebook is that there's too much stuff that we don't care about because we don't know half of our friends and people post worthless things. One of the more popular Twitter accounts in our school, @ORBobcats

(Corey Parker) believes Twitter can be used effectively but states, "Twitter is overrated when people post completely meaningless stuff." He also went on to add, "Some people overuse it and post personal things that some people don't care to hear." He enforces my thought that Twitter is simply the home of worthless updates. The following concept is similar to Facebook's friend requests. When someone from ORHS follows you, most of the time you feel entitled to follow them back even though you may not care about what they tweet. I'll take myself as an example. Way too many people from ORHS follow me when all I tweet are about Kansas basketball, the Celtics, the Bruins or some other random sports topic that all but five of my followers don't care about at all. Lastly, Facebook has all those obnoxious pages that posts pictures that that one friend you have constantly shares and thinks are hilarious but they just aren't at all. Twitter has the same thing, if not worse at this point. Men's Humor, Women's Humor, Uber Facts, Mind-Blowing, etc. are all examples of tweets that are kind of funny or interesting at first but then just get old. They post the same tweets over and over again and people still constantly retweet them. Just too much on Twitter is similar to Facebook now that it's a bit annoying. I'll still use Twitter every day as long as the people I'm following are tweeting but don't be surprised if people start realizing Twitter isn't as great as we all think.

LEAVING DURHAM?

(UNH ISN'T THE ONLY OPTION)



Ian Avery-Leaf
Media Manager

When June comes and seniors spend their final days at High School, what comes next for them has been increasingly predictable year-after-year. According to the ORHS guidance department, over 80% of the senior class at Oyster River goes to college, and almost half of those who do, eventually end up at UNH. Maybe its the familiarity, the proximity to home, or financial reasons, but there must be something I don't know about in Durham thats keeping so many students residing here.

What happened to people's drive to explore? Even if you love New Hampshire, give some new places a chance. Don't get stuck in Durham. UNH is a great school, but there are hundreds more all over the country. Why limit yourself to the US when you can go to school anywhere in the world? With all these options, why would anyone pick UNH?

If you are unsure about college but want to do something memorable, the National Outdoor Leadership School, or "NOLS" for short, has programs all over the world and is a great option for high school graduates. The closest one is in upstate New York, so any of their programs you choose will allow you to move at least a little outside your comfort zone. Multiple Oyster River alumni have completed NOLS courses throughout the years, and they allow you to learn about many outdoor sports and survival skills.

Senior D.J. DePasquale has his sights set overseas, and with local college Plymouth State University's freshman exchange program, he could find himself in Europe in less than a year. DePasquale explains, "You live in Ireland and study at Limerick University for a semester, but you're still associated with Plymouth." After Plymouth, DePasquale hopes to study in Boston, which is also still fairly close to home. "I'm still hoping to go to Berklee College of Music in Boston to actually get a degree."

ORHS Alumni Alex Harling, a UNH freshman, thinks he knows why so many students stick around after high school. Harling states, "The transition between high school and college is difficult but swift and can be unforgiving. Having my home nearby made things much easier and made the transition smooth." Harling's plan didn't always include UNH: "I wanted to go far away; Nashville was the dream. I chose UNH because of financial reasons. Sometimes you have to be practical."

For some students like ORHS alumni Christian Sbrilli, who is also a UNH freshman, UNH was the easy choice. "I chose UNH mainly because I'm lazy and UNH is wicked convenient on numerous levels," Sbrilli says. "Living close has its perks. I can always go home and have a home-cooked meal." When asked about schools outside of Durham, Sbrilli stated, "There is really no reason to go to a school far away."

*"UNH is wicked convenient
on numerous levels."*

-Christian Sbrilli



You can't get views like this in Durham...(Taken in Silverthorn, Colorado)



24 HOURS WITH JBIEBBS!



Adelia Couser
Editor in Chief

The curve of his face. The squint of his left eye.

The squeak of his voice when he hits a high note. I know it all.

Yes, friends, I have recently spent no less than 24 hours with pop icon Justin Bieber. (If you saw a girl walking around the high school on Friday, January 4th carrying a framed picture of the Biebster and a book with a huge image of his face on it...that was me.)

I undertook this challenge because I don't particularly like JBiebs's music and he seems like a typical teenage-heartthrob pop artist to me. I wanted to challenge this opinion and see if it was justifiable, so I spent a day watching Youtube interviews and movies, reading his autobiography, and researching the JBiebs in hope of challenging my preconceived notions of the singer. Below is a log I kept during the 24 hours:

6:30am (START): I'm feeling pumped. I've got my whole day planned out, I've rented my JBiebs book and movie from the library, and I've received nothing but solid encouragement from Corey Scarano. I'm ready.

6:32am: Wow. I'd forgotten how high his voice was back in '10.

7:35am: *My World 2.0* review: The songs are all pretty typical 16-year-old-pop-star-boy-love-thing, with brilliant and moving lyrics such as "Let the music blast, we gon' do our dance/Bring the doubters on, they don't matter at all." I'm hoping for better with his Xmas album.

7:36am: Wow! The voice of JBiebs has dropped significantly - I'd say it's at least an octave lower. He sounds like a different person.

7:51am: Wow. Did Busta Rhymes seriously just put a rap chorus in "The Little Drummer Boy"? And then he goes on to talk about how JBiebs "hit [him] on the twitter" during Christmas dinner...? This is wrong. This is so wrong.

8:00am: Reading up on my home-dog JBiebs on Wikipedia, and I'm not gonna lie; I'm impressed. A huge majority of the songs on his first album placed within the top 30 hits when they were released, and that's a huge achievement for such a new artist.

9:45am: I feel ridiculous. I've been carrying around a framed picture of JBiebs to all my classes and setting it up top of his book, and it's highly visible to all my classmates who don't know what I'm doing. People keep whispering "what the hell is that" and I feel very judged.

2:25pm: I am sick of listening to the Biebster. It's not so much his voice (although the constant "OoooOOOooohs" are getting annoying) as much as the general style of his music. I don't like pop-y computer-generated instruments, and I still have 16 hours to go. Ugh.

4:45pm: Just finished JBiebs's autobiography, "First Step 2 Forever: My Story," and my sentiments towards the pop star have softened. While his music might not be fantastic, he does have a really nice story and he seems like a really sweet person. I'm now going to move on to checking out Biebs's interviews and live performances.

4:50pm: Just tweeted my boy Justin saying I'm spending 24 hours with his music, books, and Youtube videos. #fabulous

5:30pm: aw okay JBiebs is a really nice person in interviews and he actually sounds decent live! I was kind of expecting him to sound vocally strained since a lot of pop artists get their songs autotuned, but the Biebs did a good

job. Very proud.

5:35pm: How JBiebs deals with the screaming of millions of teenage girls: "I've kinda gotten used to it by now."

Admirable...I could never do that without killing my fans. This is a perfect excuse to transition into researching Beliebers and his personal life, including his relationship with Selena Gomez.

5:50pm: BELIEBER. n. a fanatical devotee of

the Canadian pop star Justin Bieber. The Beliebers consist mainly of teenage girls. Some have shrines to the Biebster in their rooms. One girl claimed that she was JBiebs's personal stripper in order to try to meet him. Belieber hysteria has been compared to Beatlemania and is sometimes so extreme that JBiebs has to cancel shows. When Bieber performed in Australia, ten girls fainted and eight were hospitalized due to their excitement.

6:10pm: So here's the story of Selena and JBiebs: They were friends for at least two years before going out, and for a while kept denying (in interviews) that they had a relation-

ship. Selena publicly announced that they were dating on the Ellen DeGeneres show in March 2011, and since then they've been seen holding hands, hugging, etc in public. Their latest breakup was in November 2012; it lasted 12 days and then they got back together. I'm not sure if they've broken up since then.

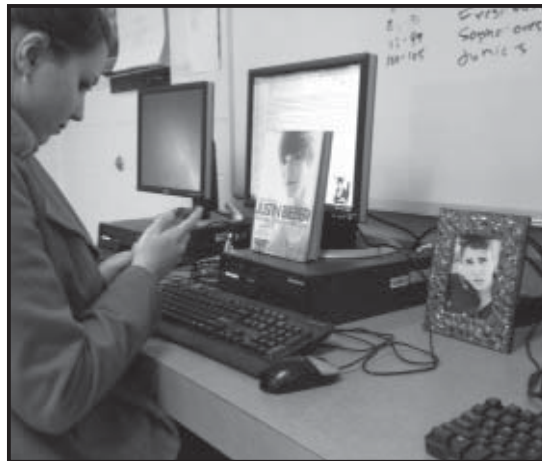
6:22pm: While reading about JBiebs's personal life has been a blast, I'm going to take a break from that and just listen to his music some more. Immerse myself in those sick beats.

7:54pm: Just finished the JBiebs movie "Biebermania!" There was nothing in there that I didn't know already from his book and Wikipedia, but it did make a point of showing just how many people care about the Biebs. Besides the throngs of screaming girls, there are journalists shocked by his fame, 60-year-old women enthralled with his boyish good looks, and a lot of musical artists that want to collaborate with him so they can gain popularity - Snoop Dogg was one of them.

9:06pm: I've been listening to JBiebs's music for about 15 hours and have come to the conclusion that while he seems like a good person, his music just doesn't cut it for me. I'll be listening to the sick beats until I fall asleep tonight, which will complete the 24-hour challenge.

Me and my "shrine" to JBiebs.

"People keep whispering 'what the hell is that' and I feel very judged."





Adrian Schidlovsky
Op-Ed Writer

POP SOME TAGS

With the economy still in a poor state, people tend to spend less money, but clothes and household items are an absolute necessity. Children grow out of their clothes, and people can't afford to constantly replace them with new items, so if you are looking for a place to get a good deal, Savers is the place to shop.

Savers is a thrift store founded by Bill Ellison in 1954 to give back and provide opportunities to people in need. Ellison's mission was to "provide customers with

the best selection and shopping experience of any thrift store in the world." Bill Ellison grew up in the thrifting lifestyle before the name was coined. His grandfather and great uncle Ben and Orlo Ellison were instrumental in instituting the Salvation Army's thrift shop in the 1930's. Bill Orlo opened his first store in 1954 in San Francisco, California and by 1970 it became a chain with the headquarters in Seattle Washington. Now the chain has become international with a store in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Not only do you get a good deal at Savers, you are doing a good deed to shop there. It is partnered with over 140 non-profit alliances which means that when you shop at Savers, you are indirectly supporting local charities and community programs. Unlike retail, Savers is a privately owned chain, working on a first name basis with customers as well as fellow employees. Employees love to hear about stories of the "art of thrifting." Almost everything in the store is a bargain, which makes Savers the first stop for bargain addicts. Savers offers current looks, authentic vintage finds, housewares collectables, furniture, and much more. "Savers is a magical place where as soon as you enter the store you embark on a magical journey that takes you through decades of styles that have come and gone, all while saving a butt load of money." says Rye Morrill, a Savers extraordinaire.

There are everyday drop offs so no two shopping experiences are the same. There are more than 270 stores worldwide. In just 10 years over a billion dollars was donated from the Savers

chain to local non-profit charities and organizations.

Some bargains OR classmates have purchased include brand names like Polo, J-Crew, Timberland, Bostonian, and LL Bean to name a few. Junior Andrew McDonald says "I just got a red and black leather jacket for \$10.00. It's the only place to buy clothes. I like the coats and hats and suits." McDonald continues "I could go to Polo, Ralph Lauren and buy a t-shirt and some shorts for \$80.00 but for the same price at Savers I can buy three suits, five t-shirts, a pair of shoes, two hats, a leather coat, some scrubs and a pair of ice skates



Senior Julien Pelletier showing off his Savers apparel.

and still have \$20.00 to spare. I go at least twice a month."

Savers helps us reduce, reuse and recycle responsibly and they call it the "Savers Cycle." Here's how it works: Donations are paid for by the bag and boxful and they will pick up donations or you can drop them off. Savers then pays their non-profit alliances every time you donate. Savers only keeps the highest quality reusable items and ships the rest to developing nations. The "Savers Cycle" prevented 600

million pounds of clothing and merchandise from ending up in a landfill last year.

As citizens of our community, country, and the world, we have a duty as well as a natural instinct to help people and our world. As we shop in our favorite stores

whether it be Polo, J-crew, Abercrombie and Fitch, LL Bean, we are spending money to benefit the store owners and ourselves. Next time you shop and you see a sweater that costs \$150, think... "Is it worth it?" You can help by stopping at the Savers across from the Fox Run mall next time you need something. You will not only save money from your pocket, but you will be saving our landfills and giving back to those in need.

Savers is a magical place where as soon as you enter the store you embark on a magical journey that takes you through decades of styles...

-Rye Morrill

JBIEBS (CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

I woke up the next morning with JBiebs still blasting in my ears. I even had a dream that I was at one of his concerts - I kid you not. Despite the occasional emotional and aural pain, I did learn some important things from this 24-hour experience.

First of all, don't judge the Biebster by his music! While it is somewhat cliché, he definitely can sing (as proven by his live concert videos) and he does write his own music unlike a lot of artists these days. In addition, he really is a sweet kid! JBiebs was always very polite and charming in his interviews, and he seems to genuinely appreciate all the success he's garnered because he knows what it's like to have next to nothing.

Summary: I don't much care for Justin Bieber's music (with the exception of about three songs), but I like his personality and he seems like a good person overall. Well done JBiebs. Never say never.

FUN FACTS ABOUT JBIEBS:

- In July 2010 (about 6 months after "Baby" came out) JBiebs was the most searched-for celebrity on the net.
- Also in July 2010, the music video for "Baby" became the most viewed (and most disliked) video on Youtube, beating Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance."
- He's the youngest person to have earned \$53 million in 12 months.
- He has a higher score on the Klout online influence scale than Obama or the Dalai Lama.
- Wax statues of JBiebs are on display at museums in New York, Amsterdam, and London.
- JBiebs is a Christian and does not believe in abortion.



China Wong
Sports Writer

LOCKED OUT

This National Hockey League's (NHL) season has not gotten off to a good start. In fact it didn't even start until January 19th, 2013. For the third time in the last eighteen years the NHL experienced a work stoppage which cancelled 510 (or 41.5 percent) of the regular season games in the NHL.

As an avid fan of the game I personally was affected by this lockout. Since the very beginning of the lockout I was annoyed. I just wanted them to get the deal done so that I could happily watch some hockey again. As the time stretched on and still no progress had been made I was starting to have my doubts. I got to the point where I didn't even care anymore because I was so fed up with both sides being so selfish. This is when it struck me. The reason the NHL had the least amount of fans out of all the professional sports is because they have trouble consistently having a season. This is the fourth lockout since the 1992 season. Even though all of these lockouts did not cancel the entire season, games were lost and whole seasons were not played. It's hard for a sport to maintain their fans if they can't consistently have a season.

Now that the NHL is back, I can honestly say that I am happy. I really didn't realize how much I missed the sport until I watched its return on January 19th. I am so excited to see what this season has in store. Overall my opinion on the lockout is that it was very selfish of the players and the owners to fight over how many millions they are getting paid. On the flip side though I believe there are two major positive outcomes from the lockout. The first positive outcome is the game of hockey itself. As a result of the lockout the season consists of only 48 regular season games compared to the regular 82. With only 48 games to play it's certain that each game will be more important to win. The game's intensity levels will increase which will make for some pretty great hockey to watch. The second outcome is that lower levels of hockey were more recognized because the NHL wasn't around to watch. People don't realize that there is some great hockey being played in the lower levels because the NHL is all they focus on. The lockout changed all that. College level, high school level, and other levels of hockey were appreciated during the work stoppage of the NHL.

Seven years ago the NHL suffered a lockout during the 2004-2005 season. Negotiations failed to be made resulting in the entire season being cancelled. The NHL was yet again in the midst of another lockout. On September 15th the NHL's Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) expired leaving the league no other choice but to create a new one. Lacking an agreement, Commissioner of the NHL Gary Bettman "locked out" all of the players of the National Hockey League Players Association (NHLPA) until an agreement was made.

Gary Bettman and the owners desired new limits on the length of contracts, changes in free agency rules, and overall they wanted to reduce the NHL revenues that the NHLPA were getting. Ownership wanted to reduce the players' total share of NHL revenues from 57% all the way down to 46%. They also wanted to cap off all new contracts at five years. Lastly, they wanted to eliminate front loading of contracts. This means they wanted to set a specific amount of money for each year on a player's contract. The owners wanted the new CBA deal to last for ten years while the players wanted it to last for eight years.

The players feared that the elite players would be making 10-12 million dollars in a five year deal which would leave a significantly lower amount of money for the rest of the roster.

The players just wanted to play hockey. In the end, this is their professional job and none are being able to "work." One alternative for players was to sign contracts and play in Europe. Many players decided to play hockey in the Kontinental Hockey League (KHL) and one superstar in particular threatened to stay there even if the NHL did resume. Washington Capitals captain Alex Ovechkin expressed his anger with the lockout saying, "If NHL bosses keep making us such 'profitable' offers, and (the lockout) will last for a long time. We're far from a compromise." Avid hockey fan Drew Thibault doesn't agree with Ovechkin saying, "I like Ovechkin, but what he said was very selfish and shows no appreciation for the fans (who make his HUGE salary possible) or all of the owners/GMs/coaches who made him the player that he is today."

One reoccurring question that I had throughout the lockout was what if this season is completely locked out? The NHL is already struggling with hanging on to their fan base and it is easy to say that hockey is not America's favorite sport. With football, basketball, and baseball playing a huge role in the U.S., there simply aren't as many fans for the sport of hockey. To put things in perspective a National Football League (NFL) playoff game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Denver Broncos brought in a whopping 43 million viewers. The Stanley Cup (which is like the super bowl of hockey) brought in an average of 6 million viewers over a seven game span. Another crazy statistic is that in 2011 nine of the ten most viewed broadcasts were NFL games. When I asked around pretty much every single person I talked to didn't think that the NHL was going to resume this year. To be quite honest I really didn't think that it was going to either. I was kind of fed up with the whole thing and I was annoyed with how greedy the players and owners were being.

Science teacher Mr. Lawrence has a passion for the sport of hockey but is so disgusted with the NHL. He stopped being fan over ten years ago and the lockout didn't affect him saying, "It [the lockout] was not an issue at all. The NHL lost me with their lockout in the mid 90's." When asked his overall opinion on the lockout Lawrence responded, I think it's sad that owners and players are willing to let greed kill a sport."

Thibault agrees with Lawrence saying, "The lockout was so stupid. Gary Bettman and the players have no concern for the fans. I think all professional athletes and the owners wear contacts that make them only see money. Brandon Prust (right winger for the Montreal Canadiens) said, 'Gary Bettman's autobiography is in stores now. It's titled, 'how I destroyed a sport and a nation.' this couldn't be more true."

Senior Brennan Young also believed that the season wasn't going to begin saying, "I thought that the NHL was going to be locked out the entire season. I think that both sides are pretty greedy. It took too long for them to come to an agreement."



A view from the Pittsburgh Penguins' bench at a Bruins game

"I think it's sad owners and players are willing to let greed kill a sport." -Mr. Lawrence



Even President Obama was fed up with the lockout saying, "You guys make money because you've got a whole bunch of fans out there who are working really hard -- they buy tickets, they're watching on TV" Y'all should be able to figure this out. Get this done." I could not agree more with President Obama. These guys are playing hockey for a living. Do they even understand how lucky they are? There are so many people in this country who are struggling to find jobs and support their family and these guys are fighting over how many millions they are getting paid? This is pretty insane to me.

Fans were upset, sad, disappointed, and fed up. There is a page on Facebook called "Just Drop It," and within a week the page received over 4500 likes. By liking this page fans pledged not to purchase team merchandise, watch games on television, or attend a game in person. For every game cancelled after December 21 these fans will boycott the equivalent amount of games now that the NHL has resumed. The NHL wouldn't be anywhere without them. The fans are the ones buying merchandise, attending games, and supporting players and teams. Although fans cannot sit in during a CBA meeting they can make a difference and show how hurt and frustrated they are with the NHL. In the end it is the fans which make everything work. I will not be one of the fans boycotting the NHL but I do respect and understand the anger and hurt that these fans are feeling. I really like how they said that the NHL takes us (the fans) for granted and they don't realize all the pain that the fans have been through in the past 18 years.

Although many fans are frustrated Young believes that the fans "will stay loyal to their teams" and he doesn't think that the NHL will lose a lot of fans. Thibault agrees with him saying, "The NHL will lose a few fans, as it did in 2004, but the majority of fans will forgive and forget eventually, because they will realize how much they miss the sport." I agree with both Young and Thibault. As a fan myself I have already forgiven because of how much I love and missed the sport. Many fans may feel hurt and that's okay but I am ready for a great season of hockey to begin.

As a coach and fan of the sport math teacher Mr. Harwood believes that the NHL will not suffer from fan loss as a result of the lockout saying, "I think the reaction will be similar to the 2005-2006 season. The game lost a significant portion of its fan base during the 2004-2005 lockout, but once the fans realized how good the improved product was they came back stronger than before the lockout. In my opinion, the game will take a hit for the first year, and then it will be considered the 'most exciting' it has ever been again," explained Harwood.

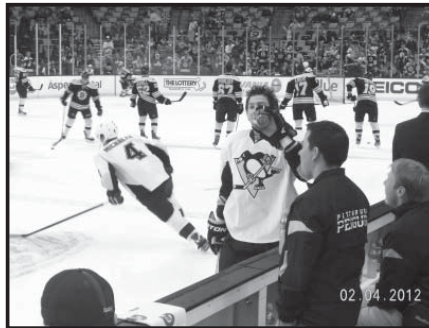
RESULTS OF THE LOCKOUT

- 510 games lost, cancellation of the Winter Classic and the All Star Game.
- Players lost \$400 + million in income.
- Every game not played, the NHL lost 18-20 million dollars.

Negotiations:

- Limit to eight years for contract extensions.
- Limit seven years for new new contracts.
- New deal lasts for 10 years, with option to opt out at 8 years.
- Salary cap of \$64.3 million, can't spend less than \$44 million.
- NHLPA total share of NHL revenue drops from 57% to 50%.

"I am so excited for the season; competition is going to be intense."
-Brennan Young



Penguins' forward James Neal takes a drink during warmups.

As a way of "giving back" and apologizing, the Pittsburgh Penguins have put together some great things for their fans. For each of their first fifteen home games the Penguins will be giving away a variety of cool gifts. These gifts include a team calendar, a one of a kind bobblehead (of last year's league MVP Evgeni Malkin), and many other great things. Along with these gifts the Penguins have also given every fan three free concession stand items at their first four home games. Team merchandise will be 50% off as well. Last but not least Penguins fans were welcome to attend practices and the team's scrimmage on Wednesday January 16th free of charge. The turnout was more than the Penguins' organization could have hoped for. For the scrimmage the building was absolutely packed and every single seat was filled. I guess this answered the question to whether fans would be supportive or their team or not. As I mentioned before, one positive outcome from the lockout is more recognition of lower levels of hockey. In Washington D.C., the Capitals production crew had nothing to cover so they decided to broadcast Loudoun County-Stone Bridge high school hockey games. The crew treated the team exactly like they would treat the Washington Capitals. They did radio play-by-play, player interviews, and lastly they updated the team's website. They even had Capitals senior writer Mike Vogel composing articles for the team. Proceeding each game,

hoped for. For the scrimmage the building was absolutely packed and every single seat was filled. The Penguins didn't want to turn fans away so they were allowed to stand around the rink if they wanted. The turnout was more than the Penguins' organization could have hoped for. For the scrimmage the building was absolutely packed and every single seat was filled. I guess this answered the question to whether fans would be supportive or their team or not. As I mentioned before, one positive outcome from the lockout is more recognition of lower levels of hockey. In Washington D.C., the Capitals production crew had nothing to cover so they decided to broadcast Loudoun County-Stone Bridge high school hockey games. The crew treated the team exactly like they would treat the Washington Capitals. They did radio play-by-play, player interviews, and lastly they updated the team's website. They even had Capitals senior writer Mike Vogel composing articles for the team. Proceeding each game,

"The game will take a hit for the first year, and then it will be considered the most exciting it has ever been."
-Mr. Harwood

interviews and highlights were also posted on the website. The best thing about this is that high school players are finally getting the recognition that they deserve. Chris Berry, of the Loudoun Country-Stone Bridge hockey team commented on the attention saying, "It's kind of weird. It felt like I was actually in the pros." Avid fan of the NHL Drew Thibault believes that the lockout helped "draw fans to the lower levels of hockey and the performance of these levels will rise with the attendance." Thibault also mentioned that "People don't realize that there are great bantam, midget, and junior teams playing amazing hockey right on their doorstep."

"I am excited for the season; competition is going to be intense. There are only so many things players can do and because of that, the game will be more intense and full of action," said Young.

I can't describe how happy I am now that the NHL is back. The lockout is finally over. Now it's time to play some hockey. I am so glad that ownership and the players were able to reach an agreement because so far the beginning of the season has brought some great hockey. I hope that NHL fans will eventually forgive because we need more of them. Hockey is saved for now and that's all that matters. Let's go boys it's your turn now.

HERE COMES HONEY BOO BOO (SAVE ME)



Andrew Gass
Guest Op-Ed
Writer

"Here comes Honey Boo Boo!" Where do I even begin on this show? I wasted 20 minutes of my life watching what I think is the worst reality TV shows ever to be created. Don't get me wrong, unfortunately it's pretty entertaining. But that makes me wonder... what is happening to our generation?

I truly worry about the people in our country these days. Apparently now a reality show about a six-year-old girl from Georgia trying to win pageants is the new cool and entertaining thing to watch. On average, 2.4 million people watched Here

comes Honey Boo Boo per week according

to CBS News. In August it received more viewers than the Republican and Democratic Conventions. I find it concerning that people would rather watch a show that is staged than one that helps determine the future of our country.

I'd honestly rather sit around watching Pauly D act like a tool than watch Honey Boo Boo strut her stuff. This is really saying a lot, because I think that Jersey Shore is pretty horrendous and also unfortunately entertaining.

Reality TV is television programs in which real people are continuously filmed, designed to be entertaining rather than informative. If I were given the opportunity to create a definition, I would probably go with: a television-programming genre that is utterly worthless,

provides some entertainment, and really just makes people

look stupid. Junior Ryan Kerrigan says that watching reality shows has made him feel very fortunate to be educated.

I keep using the word entertainment only because that's really the only way to describe these shows. Here Comes Honey Boo Boo, Dance Moms, or even Keeping up with the Kardashians

does not have any sort of emotional value nor do any of them provide me any knowledge. I'll admit to having watched a few episodes here and there of Keeping up with the Kardashians, but that's only because I felt the need to "keep up with" Kim, who I just so happen to think is incredibly hot.

Brittany Daly says that she occasionally watches Dance Moms because "it has drama, and people like to watch other people look thoughtless." We love watching people make ridiculous comments and act stupid on TV; it makes us feel good about ourselves. Emily Olivier watches Keeping up with the Kardashians because "they're divas and they look funny and stupid."

Reality TV vs Things That Matter

Here comes Honey Boo Boo: 1.3 Nielsen Rating (August 2012)
Republican National Convention: 1.2 Nielsen Rating
Democratic National Convention: 1.3 Nielsen Rating
(The Nielsen Rating determines amount of audience viewers)

While a majority of these shows are just plain irresponsible and dumb, people still feel the need to watch.

8th graders at ORMS also had the same views, they all said that the reason they watch these shows is because they are so senseless and

just honestly, love to watch people argue and fight. Some also said that they spend most of their time watching shows like X-Factor or American Idol, which I don't classify as reality TV and for the most part I can put up with.

"Have your own reality, get to know the people around you and go out and do some of the things that these people on the shows claim to be doing", says Mrs. Pearce our librarian here at ORHS. Read a book instead of watching these shows she adds, which is something I couldn't agree more with. I love reading books, and while I don't discourage TV

watching, I merely suggest that just once you read a nice book instead of watching a show that really does nothing but makes people feel better about themselves.

I don't think I will ever fully understand why people watch shows just for entertainment, but what I do know is that it won't be stopping anytime soon. The best I can hope for is that sometime in the near future, people will realize amid the entertainment, there are things more important in the world.

SKI CLUB VS. SKI TEAM



Ian Avery-Leaf
Media Manager

For many years, the only way a student could ski through Oyster River was to join the Ski Team, which competes in various racing events around New Hampshire roughly twice a week. Since that was the only option to ski at ORHS, this created a divide in the team: those who were serious about racing, and those who were just there to ski.

New to ORHS this year is a Ski Club, where instead of being a serious team that focuses on racing, it is a casual club where any student can join and ski for fun on Friday nights. Emmet Todd, an ORHS senior and member of the Ski Team for the past four seasons, is excited about this change. "The level of [Ski Team] seriousness has definitely stepped up. More kids are wearing GS suits and there are no twin-tips now. I feel this is a great change for the team."

Oyster River Middle School has had its own Ski Club for the past six years, but it's been harder to create one for the high school, mostly because there was a significantly smaller amount of kids interested. Todd adds, "At the middle

school there were five coach-buses at one point. Now there's only one for the high school." A large portion of the kids that make up Ski Club are former Ski Team members. Todd states, "There has been a large drop in the number of members on the Ski Team since there is now a Ski Club." This "large drop" is almost half of its members, since the former 43-member team is now down to 23 members this season.

The ORHS Ski Club, unlike the middle school's, visits Gunstock Mountain resort instead of King Pine, via a coach-bus for 6 consecutive Fridays starting early January.

Even though it has taken years to catch up with the middle school, ORHS Athletic Director Corey Parker is confident that the Ski Club is here to stay. "Assuming the interest stays strong from the kids, I am optimistic the program would continue. I think it is a great offering for kids who enjoy skiing or snowboarding," says Parker.

Whether you're a competitive type always looking to shave milliseconds off your time, or just a relaxed skier looking to ski for fun with friends, Oyster River now has options for everyone.



Ski Club member Nick Avery-Leaf enjoys the non-competitive side of skiing.



Eliza Mae Brown
Sports Writer

Too Cool For School ...SPORTS

Ever considered playing football, rugby, Badminton, or possibly joining a dance team? There are so many sports that may not be offered here at Oyster River but students are still finding ways to take part in such activities.

Rugby is not typically a school associated sport, however it is almost always offered as an Intramural or club sport at most colleges. Rugby is a full-contact sport which is played much like football except there aren't timeouts, substitutions or really any interference. In order to get a point a player can kick, pass or carry the ball to the other team's goal line. Senior Andrew Berube, who plays rugby for a club team in Portsmouth, plays because, "It's different, and it's much fast pace than other sports." Although rugby is not offered at Oyster River, if it ever was Berube would openly welcome the opportunity because, "it would give a lot more team supply."

Another sport that many Oyster River students take part in is martial arts. However, if the option was available for martial arts

"I would play here; it's my school, it's something to represent."-Davon Snowden

to come to Oyster River, Senior Jake Reny would rather it not. Although many would jump at the chance for their favorite sport

to be offered at Oyster River, Reny simply explains, "I like how it's separated. I have my school community friends and my dojo friends." Senior Stephanie Hollister agrees but adds, "It wouldn't be appropriate; [karate] is only cut out for certain people." Many schools have some sort of cheerleading team, or even a dance team, but Oyster River offers neither. Senior Morgan Fay, dancer at Fusion Dance Academy, is on the fence on if she would accept an Oyster River dance team or not, saying "If it was taken seriously then yes, but I don't think it would be." Fellow senior Jenny Taylor, dances for Fusion as well because, "it's a form of exercise and is a great way to express yourself." Taylor agrees with Fay and explains, "If it wasn't taken seriously, then it would be kind of embarrassing and there are also not enough dancers to make a full team."

At the top of the list for sports students would like to see at Oyster River is football. Since football is not offered at the high school most serious players will play for the Seacoast Titans. Senior Nathaniel Fisk, player for the Titans, believes "football would be a good thing; it would bring in money with all the concessions and pep rallies." However, Fisk explains that he would still continue playing for the Titans instead of the high school saying, "I'm committed to the Titans."



*Jenny Taylor and Morgan Fay dancing in Fusion Dance Academy's Senior Dance Company.
Courtesy of: Morgan Fay*

Another Titan player, Davon Snowden, thinks football would be good for the school and also comments, "I would play here; it's my school, it's something to represent." Although Snowden believes the school team wouldn't do very well the first few years he still thinks it would be good for the school.

One student has already taken matters into their own hands. Senior Jason Rubenstein has been actively trying to start up an ultimate Frisbee club here at Oyster River. "I really like the sport and I think others would too," says Rubenstein, "I want to give other students the change to play with classmates and friends." Rubenstein's ultimate goal is to "create a functional group of players" in hopes of playing against other schools or clubs. Rubenstein has already spoken to teachers and Athletic Director Corey Parker and everyone seems to be on board. Besides the task of finding field space and time, the club needs student interest. Rubenstein has put up several posters around school and is very approachable if any students have questions.

According to Assistant Principal Mike McCann, the administration is open to any ideas of bringing in new sports, but it depends on a lot of things. First McCann explains that there must be enough interest to keep the sport alive, and on top of that it needs to fit into one season. No matter the season chosen, McCann states that "the sports already in place will take precedent and then finding a practice space can't conflict with other sports as well." The main dilemma that one must face when starting up a new sport at school would be dealing with the money. If it's not budgeted for then fundraising would need to cover the costs and with sports like Rugby and Football, Insurance comes in to play well. Starting up a new sport at Oyster River would no doubt be a challenge, but it isn't impossible.



*Jake Reny performing a Kata, a series of movements used in Karate. Courtesy of:
Stephanie Hollister*

THOMAS CAULFIELD

THE UNSUNG HERO OF HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



Aaron Slepian
Guest Sports Writer

Cross-Country and Track might be two of the most underappreciated sports at Oyster River, in spite of the fact that the boys' teams in both instances have tremendous success year after year. At the head of both Cross-Country and the track distance team is one soft spoken student. Oyster River High School Senior Thomas Caulfield. Caulfield was often seated number one on varsity cross-country, though Cameron Barth was often contesting his

number one position.

Caulfield is proof that some people have a natural capacity for running while others do not. He is often regarded by his team mates with envy because of his incredible speed that comes with a notable lack of off-season training. Number one girl's runner Maegan Doody says, "Thomas is a great runner and teammate and inspires everyone by improving meet after meet. It's amazing to watch him run; he makes it look so easy." When Caulfield was asked what the key to his success is he simply stated, "I don't know." His only idea was getting a lot of sleep the night before a meet and drinking a lot of water. He also feels as though it is important to have a routine.

Caulfield started running track in seventh grade at the middle school. "I used to play lacrosse, but I was pretty bad at it so I decided I would run track instead", he states, but it wasn't long until Caulfield came to the realization that running was more than simply a replacement for lacrosse. "I was surprised by how fast I was because I hadn't really done any running previously and I didn't really know what to expect", Caulfield says. By the end of 8th grade Caulfield's knack for running started to become evident when he placed 4th in the mile race at The Seacoast Meet.

High school was a whole different story though. In 8th grade Caulfield was the big dog in the school; about 75% of his competitors were younger than him and this likely gave him an advantage. Now that he was in high school the tables had turned and he was on the very low end of the age spectrum. On top of that Caulfield decided to take up cross-country as a freshman and really didn't know what to expect.

Cross country turned out to be a good choice for Caulfield; he wound up enjoying it more than he did track and he also happened to perform quite well. "I was one of the fastest freshman", Caulfield says, and it was only uphill from there: "Sophomore year I got second in the JV state meet, so I thought I was pretty good." But Caulfield always saw room for improvement, saying, "But I wasn't on varsity so I wasn't one of the better ones." Caulfield's team mates always had great respect for him, "Thomas is just naturally fast, we found that out when he was the fastest freshman without any prior XC experience" says his team mate Wesley Hutton.



Caulfield leading the pack in the 1500 meter race.

By junior year Caulfield had secured his seat on varsity cross country and continued to perform at an impressive level, playing a key role in Oyster River claiming their second consecutive state championship title.

Now that Caulfield's senior year fall has passed he has waved goodbye to the sport and team that he grew so much to love. But he can look back on this season with pride. Caulfield was either number one or number two on the team for the entire season, trading roles on and off with Barth.

"Cam is very good" Caulfield says, "He beat me in almost all the meets in the beginning of the season because he had better summer running." Despite his competitive spirit, Caulfield admires Barth for his running, saying, "He runs the same pace for everything, so he could run a 10K at the same pace that he runs a 5K, which is very unusual." According to Caulfield this isn't a skill that many possess. Most runners who do well in 10K races cannot run a fast 5K, but for Barth this is not the case.

Even though Caulfield has said his final goodbyes to Oyster River cross country, he will be remembered for some time for his performance on the team. Caulfield made his personal record last season with a 5K time of 16 minutes and 10 seconds. "For our team that's pretty good", Caulfield states, "Our coach Greg has a sheet of times from States, and he keeps track of the 25 fastest, and I'm pretty sure I was number 5."

Caulfield is the fastest of what he feels is "the second tier" of Oyster River cross country runners in the past, the first tier being athletes such as Jack Collopy, Ricky Hoyt or Gubby Noronha. Caulfield was greatly respected by this top tier of runners though, Collopy says, "He's the silent killer, the beast loves running."

"I was surprised by how fast I was because I hadn't really done any running previously and I didn't really know what to expect." -Thomas Caulfield



Caulfield relaxing after the Bobcat Invitational with team mates; Christian Davis, Timo Raeder and Drew Horton

“CAULFIELD” (CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

In Caulfield’s eyes his greatest achievement as a runner was winning states as a junior, saying, “It feels really great to feel like you’re the best team there.”

Now that cross country has ended Caulfield is involved in his other running team, winter track. Caulfield almost exclusively runs the distance events on track, usually either the 1500 meter or 3000 meter. “My favorite event is probably the 15-hundred”, Caulfield claims, “because it’s long enough that I don’t get destroyed but it’s short enough that you don’t get bored just running laps. Although I’m definitely better at the 3,000, I prefer the 1,500.”

Caulfield is currently weighing the possibility of running in college. “It just depends on where I go. I’m kind of split. I think it would be fun but it would also be a lot of added work.” Whether or not Caulfield decides to continue his running career, he definitely has a deep appreciation for what his coaches have done for him. “I think it’s a combination of both coaches that has helped” Caulfield says. His coach Greg Gephart has done great things for Caulfield, “Greg is one of the best high school coaches out there” he says, “he’s taken all the classes on running and he really knows what he’s talking about.”

Caulfield’s other coach Erik Travis was the person always next to Caulfield during his runs at practice. “Erik ran with us on our workouts, and what Greg told us to do, Erik made us do it.”

Travis looked upon Caulfield just as favorably, saying, “Thomas is a great example of a runner who leads with action rather than words. He has a contagious work ethic and always races hard, which encourages the rest of the team to be better. This, combined with superior talent, makes him one of the best runners on the team and great teammate to the rest of the guys.” The advice that Caulfield leaves for Oyster River runners in the future is simple “Do what Greg tells you. You’ll get faster.”

SKI TEAM



Recent Races: 1/31 Crotched Mountain: Boys 1st, Girls 4th,
Up and Coming Skiers: Freshman Andy McQuade, and Sophomore Lizzie Silvio
Upcoming Meets: 2/12 Cranmore (Boys States), 2/14 King Pine (Girls States)

Chase Klewicki

Guest Writer “As our coach Jake always says, we need to get out of the back seat and become more aggressive skiers,” comments Pape. The ski team is looking to have a better season this year; even with the loss of their top skier Molly McQuade the girls will be contenders in the league and the boys will most definitely improve on the previous year’s sixth place. So far this year Liam O’Rourke and Andy McQuade have been leading the boys, taking the top spots for Oyster River in almost all the boy’s races, and for the girls Lizzie Silvio and Serena Pape have been racing well.

This is the ski teams first season in division II and the team has been fairing relatively well. “It’s been a long road getting away from park skiing and getting a group of kids who are actually interested in racing. We have improved over the four years I’ve been on the team to the point where we are actually competitive and we did move up a division this year,” adds Hoff. The ski team at Oyster River has a relaxed atmosphere but is definitely looking to keep improving on its track record.



Liam O’Rourke rounding the gate.

BOYS’ ICE HOCKEY



China Wong
Sports Writer

Record: 5-3-4, 7th place
Big Wins: Goffstown, tied Bedford and Spaulding (1-1)
Top Players: Brennan Young, Julien Pellitier, and Patrick McDonough
Important Upcoming Games: Bow 2/13, Dover 2/21, and Spaulding 2/23
Rivals: Dover and Bedford

The boys’ ice hockey team has had a pretty good season so far. They started off winning the Heuchling/Swift Memorial Championship. The Bobcats did so by defeating Windham-Pelham in the first round, Kennett in the second round, and Martha’s Vineyard 5-0 in the championship game. Along with that Oyster River’s own Cooper Smith brought home the title of Most Valuable Player.

Then they had a stretch where they had four consecutive 1-1 ties against top teams Bedford and Spaulding and lower teams Keene and Pembroke. The team has a core groups of seniors and according to senior goalie Brennan Young, “We’ve never won a state championship before and because we are seniors this is our last chance to.” The Bobcats have a pretty well rounded team and their strengths reside in goaltending and defense. If they can play as a team rather than individuals they have a great chance of bringing home the championship.



Cooper Smith faces off against Bow

GIRLS’ ICE HOCKEY



Nick Lazar
Sports Writer

Record: 9-3-1, tied for 2nd place
Big Wins: Saint Thomas-Dover, Bishop Brady-Trinity
Top Players: Juniors Sandra Strogon and Hannah Herz-Khan
Upcoming Important Games: 2/16 vs. Bishop Guertin, 2/19 vs. Exeter

The strengths in the girl’s ice hockey team have been their ability to score goals with two standout juniors in Hannah Herz-khan and Sandra Strogon. On the defensive side of the puck there has been surprising good play from underclassmen in Sarah Lessard and Haley Bisson. This team also has great chemistry this year with a good mix of upperclassmen leadership provided by seniors Lynn Burke and Becca Murphy with great potential from the underclassmen. “If we continue on the path that we are on right now and play up to the level that we are capable of then we can be a really good team and be in contention for the championship,” MarkAnthony said. They are currently tied for 2nd place with only four games that are very winnable left for the Bobcats which would mean if they won their last four they would get a top four seed in the playoffs.



Senior Captain Becca Murphy faces off against Saint Thomas-Dover.

Saint Valentine is the patron saint of lovers and engaged couples...as well as epilepsy, plague,

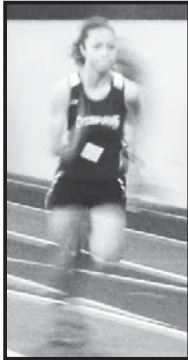




Zach Park
Sports Editor

TRACK AND FIELD SEASON REVIEW

Unlike most winter sports, the track and field season has come to a close. They participated in the annual state meet at Dartmouth College on Super Bowl Sunday. Many OR athletes represented the blue and white in Hanover. The meet didn't turn out great for the Bobcats with top hurdler, senior Mandi Lathrop finishing last in her 55



Dominique Twobley torching the competition.

M Hurdles, freshman Dominique Twobley false-starting in her 55 M Dash and junior hurdler Jan Bartos failed to qualify for the finals. Despite those struggles, a lot of good came out of the meet. The girls' 4X400 relay team consisting of senior Kayli Igoe and the freshmen trio of Maegan Doody, Isabelle Todd and Dominique Twobley broke a school record by six seconds and finished 2nd at the meet. Doody went on to break school records in the 1000 M and 1500 M as well. Senior Thomas Caulfield and sophomore Cam Barth also got points for the Bobcats in the 3000 M finishing 3rd and 5th, respectively. With some struggles, OR certainly didn't meet its full potential but the Bobcats should end the season with their heads held high with an impressive outing in the final state meet.



China Wong
Sports Writer

SWIMMING AND DIVING

Record: The Bobcats had a good season overall and participated in the state meet this past weekend

Top Swimmers: Haley Jones, Chris Rouleau, Drew Thibault, and Tessa Oakes

Top Divers: Ella Cedarholm, Neville Caulfield, and Abby Howard

Biggest Rival: Hanover

The swim team had to face a lot of adversity this season. They lost over six top swimmers and they didn't have as much senior leadership as the previous season. Many new freshmen have joined the team and "are awesome and work hard" according to Haley Jones. One of the biggest differences from this year's team to last year's team is the amount of speed the team has. The team was just not as big as the previous season's which made it harder for them in meets. It's hard to win when your opponents have ten (or more) swimmers than you do. In the end, the season was a rebuilding year and a successful one too.

The diving team had a pretty good season as well. "We all work really hard which really pays off during meets," said Abby Howard. Although not everyone made it to the state meet the diving team did their best and had a great season.



Drew Thibault swims the butterfly.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL SEASON REVIEW

Record: 4-8, tied for 14th place

Big Wins: Milford and Saint Thomas

Top Players: Junior Claire Salmon and Junior Jenny Mistretta

Important Upcoming Games: 2/20 vs Coe-Brown and 2/22 vs Kennett (Senior Game)

The girls' basketball team is fighting for a spot in the 16 team playoffs in Division II. They are currently tied for 14th place and have a number of upcoming games that are certainly winnable. While the pre-season goal of a home playoff game might be unattainable, the Bobcats are still alive to snatch a lower seed. They have a good group of seniors that are hungry to keep the train going. The girls have held their own at home posting a 3-3 record. The problem has been road games where they have struggled with a 1-4 record. With a slew of road games coming up, if the girls find a way to steal a win or two, the Bobcats should expect to be in the playoffs.



Junior Jenny Mistretta takes control of the offense.



Eliza Mae Brown
Sports Writer

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Record: 7-4, tied for 6th place

Big Wins: Hollis-Brookline and Saint Thomas

Top Players: Junior Nick Lazar, Senior Anthony Shea and Senior Jake Smith

Important Upcoming Games: 2/12 vs Saint Thomas, 2/19 vs Coe-Brown and 2/26 vs Pembroke (Senior Game)

The boys' basketball teams expect good things to happen if they continue to make changes and adapt in every single game. Nick Lazar and Anthony Shea have been doing the bulk of



Zack Jones playing lock-down defense.

the scoring for the Bobcats. With a league-best defense and good outside shooters surrounding them, this team continues to advance in the standings. Currently tied for fourth, the season is looking promising for these Bobcats. They hope to attain a home playoff game with a top eight seed or possibly grab the coveted top four in order to get two home playoff games. The journey continues today as the boys meet again with rivals, St. Thomas Aquinas, who they took down 52-38 earlier in the season. Come support your bobcats!